BATMAN
NO.65
52 BIG PAGES
JUNE...JULY
SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS
10¢
BAT MAN
IS THE CATWOMAN AN ALLY OF THE DYNAMIC DUO OR HAS SHE RETURNED TO CRIME? YOU BE THE JURY TO DECIDE, AS GOTHAM CITY BOWS TO...
"THE Empress of the Underworld!"
ROGUES' GALLERY
UNDERCOVER POLICE AGENTS
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BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

FOR MANY YEARS, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE THROUGH THE THICK AND THIN OF BATTLES AGAINST CRIME. CAN IT BE THAT AT LONG LAST THE PARTNERSHIP IS TO BE DISSOLVED?!! WHO IS THIS *WINGMAN* WHO SOARS THROUGH THE NIGHT AS *BATMAN'S* NEW ALLY -- DOING THE JOBS THAT *ROBIN* ONCE DID?!! THE SURPRISING ANSWERS ARE ALL HERE -- IN THE TENSE STORY CALLED --

"A Partner for BATMAN!"

by BOB KANE

BUT WHERE'S *ROBIN*?!!

WHO NEEDS *ROBIN*? *BATMAN'S* GOT *WINGMAN* NOW!

JEWELRY

ONE NIGHT, IN A GOTHAM CITY SHIPYARD, AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* THE BOY WONDER PATROL THE SLEEPING METROPOLIS...

LOOK--THERE'S THE DEXTER GANG! THEY'RE CLIMBING THAT ROPE LADDER.'

THEY'VE MADE A MISTAKE.' WE CAN TRAP THEM ON THE DECK OF THAT HULL, *ROBIN*-- I KNOW A FASTER WAY OF GETTING UP THERE.'

THIS IS A NICE, *HANDY* WAY TO TRAVEL.'

WE'LL ATTACK THEM HEAD-ON.' THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM.'

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS THE END OF THE DEXTER GANG.'

BATMAN AND *ROBIN*.' HOW'D THEY GET HERE SO FAST.'

IN A BRIEF BUT FURIOUS STRUGGLE, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* OVERCOME THEIR OPPONENTS. THEN...

I'LL TIE THEM UP.' *ROBIN*, GET DOWN TO A PHONE AND CALL THE POLICE.

RIGHT.'

BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS, THE BOY WONDER FAILS TO SEE A SPOT OF OIL-SLICK ON THE DECK, AND..

BATMAN.' I SLIPPED-- I CAN'T STOP.'

ROBIN.' GO LIMP.' *GO LIMP, ROBIN... AND RIDE WITH THE FALL! IT'S YOUR ONLY CHANCE.'*

AND THEN...

THE POOR KID.' THE POOR KID.'

MINUTES LATER...

ANY OTHER KID WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THAT FALL! *ROBIN'S* LONG TRAINING AND SPLENDID CONDITION SAVED HIM. BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S BROKEN HIS LEG...

OOOOH! MY...MY LEG...

LATER, AT THE HOSPITAL....

THERE YOU GO! WHEN THAT LEG HEALS, IT'LL BE STRONGER THAN EVER!

SEE, COMMISSIONER? *ROBIN'S* GETTING BETTER ALREADY!

COME, *BATMAN*--I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

SO LONG FOR NOW, *ROBIN*! I'LL BE BACK A LITTLE LATER TO PICK YOU UP AND TAKE YOU HOME.

A FINE MESS I'VE MADE OF THINGS! SIX WEEKS IN A CAST--SIX MORE WEEKS BEFORE THE LEG IS STRONG! AND AT A TIME WHEN COMMISSIONER GORDON NEEDS *BATMAN* AND ME THE MOST!

I'LL MOVE YOU DOWNSTAIRS SO YOU'LL BE READY WHEN *BATMAN* COMES FOR YOU...

A WHEEL-CHAIR INVALID! I SAW THE LOOK IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S EYE, EVEN THOUGH HE TRIED TO HIDE IT. I'VE LET HIM DOWN!

AND LATER...

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, *ROBIN*! WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT GORDON HAS UP HIS SLEEVE!

BATMAN'S DOING HIS BEST TO SOUND GAY. BUT I CAN TELL HIS HEART ISN'T IN IT!

THEN, AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* REVERT BACK TO THE ROLES OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

A CERTAIN NORTHERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUT IN AN URGENT REQUEST FOR A COUNTERPART OF *BATMAN!* I'M GOING TO TRAIN ONE FROM AMONG THEIR NATURALIZED CITIZENS RESIDING HERE!

THE PLAN MUST BE KEPT SECRET, THOUGH -- FROM CRIMINAL AGENTS OF THE COUNTRY WHO ARE HERE. SO THIS NEW LAWMAN IS GOING TO APPEAR AS *BATMAN'S PARTNER* -- TO AVOID SUSPICION.

BATMAN'S PARTNER! THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT *I* WAS!

IT'LL WORK OUT SWELL! WITH YOU LAID UP, IT WOULD SEEM A NATURAL THING FOR ME TO TAKE ON SOMEONE ELSE TEMPORARILY.

IT'S *TOO* SWELL! I WISH I COULD BELIEVE HIM, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING I'M BEING EASED OUT OF THE PICTURE...

AND NEXT DAY, WHILE DICK RECUPERATES IN GOTHAM PARK...

DID YOU SEE THE PAPER? *BATMAN'S* GETTING HIMSELF A PARTNER TO HELP HIM WHILE *ROBIN'S* LAID UP!

YEAH! IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S A SMART MOVE! A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY! TWO *BATMEN* -- THAT'S WHAT WE NEED AROUND HERE!

THAT EVENING, TO KEEP BUSY, *ROBIN* CHECKS EQUIPMENT IN THE CRIME LAB AS...

BATMAN MUST HAVE SWITCHED ON HIS BELT RADIO BY ACCIDENT. I CAN HEAR HIM SPEAKING TO COMMISSIONER GORDON...

BUT WHAT ABOUT *ROBIN*, COMMISSIONER?

WE DON'T NEED ANY *ROBIN, BATMAN!* I'VE GOT THINGS ALL FIGURED OUT!

JUST AS I FEARED! (SOB!) THEY'RE PLANNING TO DROP ME!

NEXT DAY...

BEING ABLE TO SELECT A NEW LAWMAN FROM THE HANDFUL OF NATURALIZED CITIZENS IN GOTHAM CITY IS A PROBLEM. OF COURSE, I'M SCREENING *ALL* KINDS OF PEOPLE SO AS TO KEEP OUR INTENT A SECRET.

BATMAN SOUNDS CONVINCING. COULD I HAVE BEEN WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS? AFTER ALL, HE'S ONLY INTERVIEWING A FEW MEN...

...IF HE AND GORDON WERE ATTEMPTING TO REPLACE ME WITH AN ADULT, THEY WOULD COMB THE WHOLE COUNTRY FOR THE BEST MAN. HMMM-- I'LL KNOW MORE WHEN THEY DECIDE WHO GETS THE JOB.

AND, IN *ROBIN'S* SPARE MOMENTS...

IN A SHORT WHILE, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO MY TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE IN HIS NATIVE LANGUAGE -- *IF* **BATMAN** AND GORDON HAVE BEEN TELLING ME THE TRUTH.

NEXT DAY...

WHAT A BREAK! JUST WHEN MY TASK SEEMED HOPELESS, I FOUND A YOUNG MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE HE'LL FILL THE BILL! HE'S AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS -- I WANT YOU TO MEET HIM.'

SOON...

HERE HE IS! WE CALL HIM *WINGMAN!* AND HE'S READY FOR ADVANCED TRAINING.'

WINGMAN, EH? I'LL ASK HIM A QUESTION IN HIS OWN TONGUE!

AND, AS *ROBIN* RESPONDS TO THE INTRODUCTION IN THE LANGUAGE SUPPOSEDLY SPOKEN BY WINGMAN...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE KID? DOESN'T HE SPEAK *ENGLISH*?

OH, *ROBIN'S* A GREAT KIDDER, THAT'S ALL.'

HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD I SAID! HE'S NO MORE *EUROPEAN* THAN I AM!

THAT NIGHT...

WE DON'T NEED ANY ROBIN

THAT WINGMAN IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO GOTHAM CITY! HE AND *BATMAN* SURE HIT IT OFF SWELL!

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? AS A MAN, HE HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH *BATMAN*-- THEY CAN DO THINGS TOGETHER *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* COULD NEVER DO!

HERE HE IS! WE CALL HIM *WINGMAN!*

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE KID?

A MAN IS BETTER THAN A KID ANY DAY!

AND AS DICK SUDDENLY AWAKES...

NO FUN TO SLEEP AND HAVE THOSE NIGHT-MARES! I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO TO CALM MY NERVES...

SPECULATION IS RIFE IN GOTHAM CITY TONIGHT AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO *ROBIN THE BOY WONDER*...

STEVE BELTER, THE GOSSIP COLUMNIST, AND HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME!

WINGMAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE A TEMPORARY ASSISTANT TO *BATMAN* UNTIL SUCH TIME AS *ROBIN* GETS WELL! BUT INSIDERS PREDICT WINGMAN WILL STAY ON AND THAT *ROBIN* WILL REVERT BACK TO THE NORMAL LIFE OF A YOUNG LAD...

NEXT DAY, IN A SPECIALLY-CONSTRUCTED GYMNASIUM SOMEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY...

WE'RE GOING TO START WINGMAN'S TRAINING WITH ADVANCED GYMNASTICS. I WANT YOU TO MAKE A MOTION PICTURE RECORD OF WHAT GOES ON, SO THAT WE CAN SPOT HIS FAULTS AND CORRECT THEM...

FAULTS! THAT GIVES ME SOME HOPE!

I'D FORGOTTEN THAT WINGMAN HAS YET TO PROVE HIMSELF. IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE'LL FAIL TO COME UP TO THE STANDARDS I'VE ALREADY SET!

AND, AS WINGMAN'S TRAINING CONTINUES...

HE'S NOT A VERY GOOD SWIMMER! I COULD BEAT HIM HANDS DOWN!

I WENT OVER THIS SAME OBSTACLE COURSE IN 94 SECONDS. WINGMAN WILL BE LUCKY TO DO IT IN UNDER THREE MINUTES!

THEN, AFTER WEEKS HAVE PASSED, AND WINGMAN'S TRAINING IS OVER...

WELL, SOME OF IT'S GOOD, AND SOME OF IT'S BAD--HE'S STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...

HMM... *BATMAN'S* BEGINNING TO SEE IT ISN'T GOING TO BE SO EASY TO REPLACE ME!

THE TRUE TEST OF WINGMAN'S ABILITY WILL BE HOW HE REACTS UNDER FIRE! TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM OUT AGAINST CRIME!

I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE! WINGMAN MAY FAIL MISERABLY WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN!

AND NEXT EVENING, AS *ROBIN* AWAITS WORD OF WINGMAN'S FIRST SORTIE AGAINST CRIME...

MIGHT AS WELL SEE SOME TELEVISION WHILE I WAIT. THE OPERA'S ON TONIGHT...

THIS IS THE MOST GALA OPENING NIGHT IN THE HISTORY OF THE GOTHAM OPERA COMPANY! SOCIETY'S "400", HAVE REALLY TURNED OUT TONIGHT.

THEN ALL AT ONCE, DURING THE OPERA'S FIRST ACT...

WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS A HOLD-UP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THIS IS NO GAG! A MOST BRAZEN GANG IS ROBBING THE OPERA AUDIENCE, UNMINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT THE WHOLE THING IS ON TELEVISION.

WOW! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN *THIS*.

SUDDENLY...

LOOK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! *BATMAN* AND *WINGMAN* HAVE ARRIVED! REAL *DRAMA* IS UNFOLDING BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES!

WHY DOESN'T WINGMAN REACH BACK AND PULL THAT CURTAIN?!! HE'D CATCH THOSE CROOKS LIKE FISH IN A NET.

IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

YOU SAW IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU SAW *BATMAN* RELEASE THE CURTAIN AND TRAP THE CROOKS! WHAT A SURPRISE FOR YOU TELEVISION VIEWERS! YOU'RE SEEING HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

GOOD OLD *BATMAN!* HE D.D IT, WHEN WINGMAN FA LED!

AND, NEXT EVEN NG...

WINGMAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE RESOURCE-FUL! BUT I CAN'T CON-DEMN H M YET. HE DESERVES ANOTHER CHANCE.

W.NGMAN

SUDDENLY, THE ELECTRIC EYE ALARM SOUNDS OFF, SIGNIFYING THE *BAT-SIGNAL* OUTSIDE...

HERE WE GO AGA N--THE *BAT-SIGNAL!* WINGMAN IS TO MEET ME AT HEADQUARTERS WHEN HE SPOTS IT. C'MON, *ROBIN* -- YOU CAN STAY - WITH GORDON!

BUTLER

WAYNE MANSION

BAT CAVE

BAT SIGNAL

HALL OF TROPH ES

SOON AFTER...

CROOKS ARE BURGLING THE SKYLINE CLUB--GET OVER THERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

R GHT!

MOMENTS LATER...

COME ON, *ROBIN* -- YOU CAN GO ALONG WITH ME IN A POLICE CAR...

AND, AT THE SKYLINE CLUB, ATOP A TALL GOTHAM CITY SKYSCRAPER...

CAREFUL, *BATMAN!* THEY'RE ARMED! THEY'VE GONE UP TO THE TOWER!

THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING, RIGHT NOW!

MINUTES LATER, AS GORDON AND *ROBIN* ARRIVE...

AHH! *BATMAN* AND WINGMAN HAVE TAKEN OVER NICELY!

YES! BUT THEY'D BETTER WATCH THAT CROOK IN THE BACK WHO'S THROWING A ROPE UP TOWARD THAT CLOCK!

IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

HOLD IT, WINGMAN--IF YOU WANT *BATMAN* ALIVE! IF I LET GO OF THIS ROPE, HE'S A GONER!

THE CROOK SNEAKED UP BEHIND *BATMAN* AND ROPED HIM! NOW HE'S USING HIM TO BARGAIN FOR HIS OWN LIFE!

SUDDENLY...

BATMAN'S CAPE IS CAUGHT ON THE MINUTE HAND OF THE CLOCK! SOONER OR LATER HE'LL SLIP OFF TO HIS DEATH!

YOU RAT!

I DIDN'T MEAN HIM TO GET STUCK! OWWW!

THEN...

GET A GOOD GRIP AND HANG ON, *BATMAN*!

I'M HOPING THAT HE SAVES *BATMAN*--EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS MY FINISH! FOR THIS WILL PROVE WINGMAN'S GREATNESS!

TENSE MOMENTS LATER...

LOOK! *ROBIN*! WINGMAN'S DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE! HE'S GOING UP AFTER *BATMAN*!

AND, AFTER THE RESCUE HAS BEEN A COMPLETE SUCCESS...

WELL, AT LEAST *BATMAN'S* SAFE! I'D BETTER GO HOME--NO ONE SEEMS TO NEED *ME* ANY MORE...

HE'S GOT HIM OFF THE CLOCK AND IS BRINGING HIM DOWN!

WINGMAN'S A BETTER MAN THAN I THOUGHT HE WAS--AND I'M GLAD-- FOR *BATMAN'S* SAKE!

LATER, IN THE *BAT-CAVE*...

NOW I'VE GOT ONLY ONE STRAW LEFT TO GRASP AT--AND A VERY THIN STRAW AT THAT! AT LEAST *BATMAN* HASN'T TOLD *EVERYTHING* TO WINGMAN--SHOWN HIM THIS *BATCAVE*--REVEALED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...

AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO *ROBIN'S* THOUGHTS, *WINGMAN ENTERS THE BAT-CAVE!*

WELL, WELL-- SO *THIS* IS THE *BAT-CAVE!* I CERTAINLY HEARD ENOUGH ABOUT IT!

WINGMAN--IN HERE! THIS IS IT--ALL RIGHT! *BATMAN* HAS REVEALED *ALL!* IT'S THE END OF *ROBIN!*

AND YOU'RE DICK GRAYSON! BOY, WAS I SURPRISED WHEN I FOUND OUT WHO *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* REALLY WERE! I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED IN A MILLION YEARS!

ALL RIGHT--YOU KNOW MY SECRETS! NOW-- *WHO ARE YOU?*

OH, I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT! *BATMAN* SAYS NO ONE BUT *HE* SHALL KNOW MY *TRUE* IDENTITY!

I'M NOT EVEN TRUSTED ANY MORE!

IF *BATMAN'S* STORY WERE TRUE, ABOUT TRAINING A *BATMAN* FOR A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THERE'D BE NO NEED OF REVEALING ALL THE *BATMAN* SECRETS TO HIM! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE *BATMAN* FOR NOT KEEPING FAITH WITH ME...

HEY, KID! WHERE YOU HURRYING TO?

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE-- NOW?

MOMENTS LATER...

WHY, DICK-- WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE CRYING!

YOU'VE GOT A NERVE! (SOB) YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE MATTER! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU KICK ME OUT AND REPLACE ME WITH THAT WINGMAN!

REPLACE YOU? WHY--WINGMAN'S TICKETED FOR DUTY IN EUROPE! I *TOLD* YOU *THAT!* HE LEAVES IN A FEW WEEKS!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KID ME! I HEARD GORDON TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T NEED ANY *ROBIN!*

BUT WE WERE REFERRING TO A SECRET *ROBIN* WHO WAS TO GO ALONG WITH WINGMAN TO EUROPE! GORDON THOUGHT IT UNNECESSARY --THOUGHT A *BATMAN*-TYPE WOULD BE ENOUGH!

WELL--WHAT ABOUT THE NEWSPAPERS-- AND THE CRACKS BY COLUMNIST STEVE BELTER ABOUT WINGMAN REPLACING ME?

WHY, YOU CRAZY KID! THOSE WERE PLANTS-- I *TOLD* YOU WE DIDN'T WANT OUR REAL PURPOSE KNOWN! THAT'S WHY WINGMAN WAS PUBLICIZED AS YOUR REPLACEMENT!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! TONIGHT, WINGMAN CAME HERE-- HE KNEW ALL OUR SECRETS-- KNEW OUR IDENTITIES!

BUT THAT WAS *ME* DICK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I BE ABLE TO IMPERSONATE MEN I'VE TRAINED. I WANTED TO SEE IF I COULD FOOL YOU-- IT WAS AN ACID TEST!

THEN--I BET THAT WAS *YOU* IN THE WINGMAN UNIFORM WHO DID THE RESCUING ON THAT CLOCKTOWER TONIGHT!

EXACTLY. YOU MIGHT HAVE KNOWN I'D NEVER BE CAUGHT NAPPING THE WAY WINGMAN WAS. YOU SEE--I'D EXCHANGED PLACES WITH HIM WHEN WE RECEIVED WORD THAT GANGLAND WAS GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON *HIM* BECAUSE OF HIS INEXPERIENCE!

GOLLY - WHAT A FOOL *I'VE* BEEN! AND I SEE NOW WHY WINGMAN DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HIS NATIVE TONGUE. HE PROBABLY CAME OVER HERE AS A BABY!

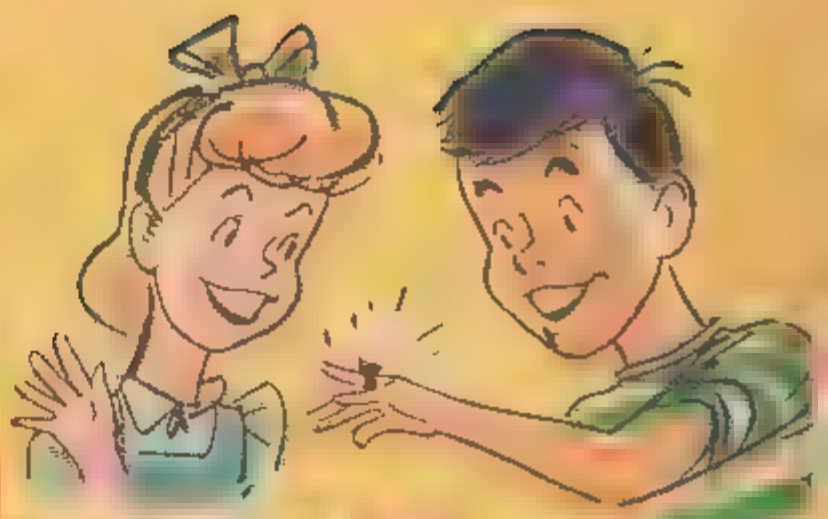
RIGHT. YOU GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT AND LET YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE YOU THE REST OF THE WAY! BUT I DON'T THINK IT'LL HAPPEN AGAIN!

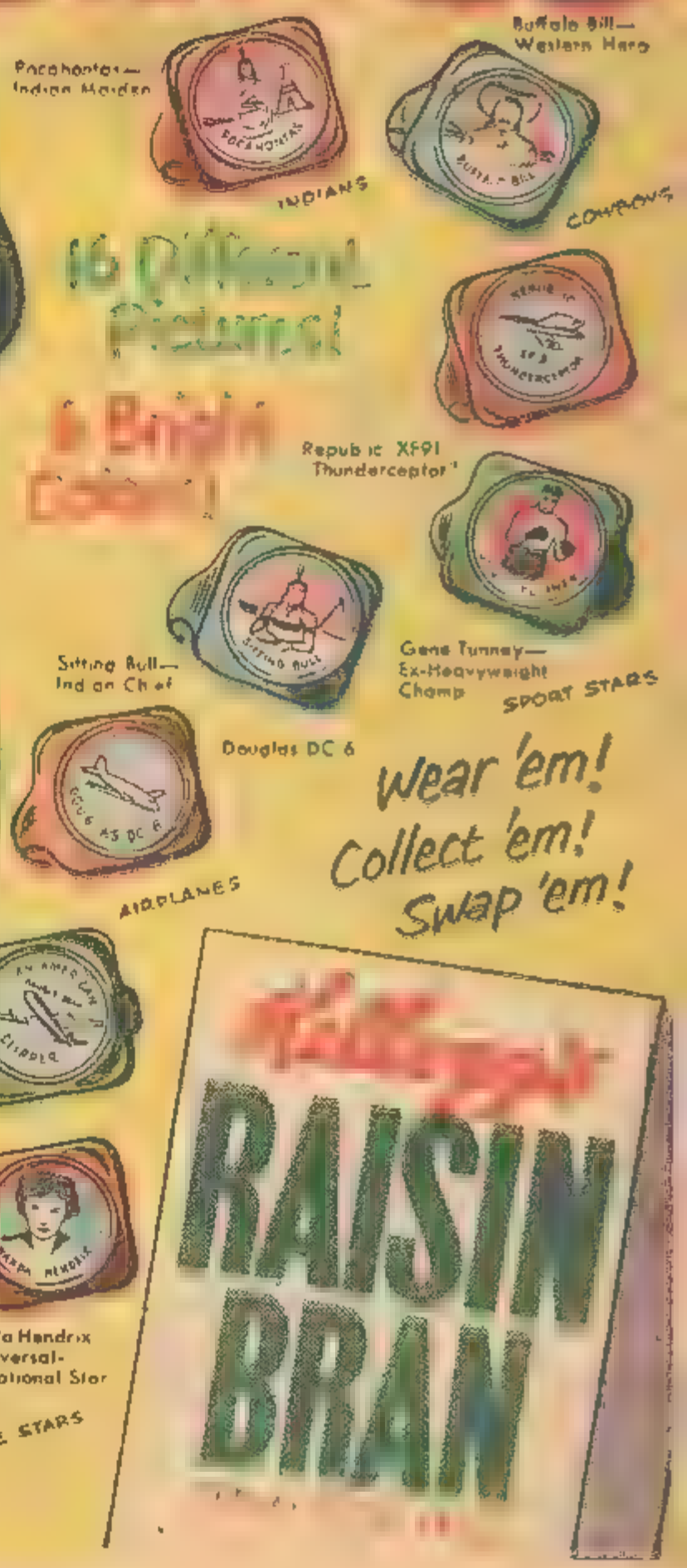
YOU BET. FROM NOW ON I WON'T LISTEN TO THOSE GREEN-EYED MONSTERS! I'LL PUT MY TRUST IN OUR FRIENDSHIP!

BATMAN BUYS U.S. BONDS ... DO YOU?

THE END

NOW! PRIZE PLASTIC PICTURE RINGS





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ADVERTISEMENT

WONDER WHY WE AREN'T CATCHING ANY FISH?
MAYBE OUR BAIT ISN'T RIGHT-
PUD MUST KNOW THE SECRET!
HE WON'T TELL US
LET'S WATCH HIM AND SEE!
!?
HEY! WHAT FUNNY LOOKING BAIT!
I-IT LOOKS LIKE A PIECE OF DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
AW, FISH DON'T CHEW GUM-
EVERYBODY LIKES TO CHEW DUBBLE BUBBLE GUM!
SEE! EVEN THE FISH LIKE IT!
I'M ALWAYS GOING TO HAVE PLENTY OF DUBBLE BUBBLE WHEN I GO FISHIN'!
FLEER'S DUBBLE BUBBLE BLOWS BIGGER BUBBLES!
TASTES GOOD! FUN TO CHEW!
FLEER'S FAMOUS FUNNIES ARE IN EVERY WRAPPER!
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CASEY THE COP

SARGE, I JUST PICKED UP TWO SUSPICIOUS LOOKING MEN. THEY'RE IN THE NEXT ROOM!

CASEY! WE CAN'T PICK UP EVERYBODY THAT LOOKS SUSPICIOUS WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

WHY, WE'D HAVE THAT JA- ALL IN NO TIME! WELL, BRING THEM IN

HERE THEY ARE, SARGE. IT'S NIGHT NOW AND THE BANK WAS CLOSED -

?

THESE FELLOWS WERE COMING OUT OF IT WITH ALL THAT MONEY! THEY LOOK MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS TO ME!

END

BATMAN AND ROBIN

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! BATMAN BAFFLED BY CRIMINAL CZAR!

THESE ARE THE HEADLINES BEING HAWKED BY EVERY NEWSBOY IN GOTHAM CITY! BUT BEHIND THESE BLAZING FRONT PAGES IS ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC STORIES IN THE ANNALS OF JOURNALISM... A STORY WHICH CAN NEVER BE FULLY REVEALED IN ANY NEWSPAPER! NOW *YOU* CAN LEARN THE SECRET OF A CRIME KING WHO HAS AN ENTIRE CITY GUESSING--YES, EVEN THE FAMED DARING DUO, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!* YOU'LL BE STUNNED BY THE IMPACT OF THE POWERFUL FACTS REVEALED IN THIS EXCLUSIVE STORY BY... "*Bruce Wayne - CRIME REPORTER!*"

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BOB KANE

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

BATMAN

IN THE PRESS ROOM OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE, EDITOR JACK "FIVE STAR" THORPE CHECKS THE FRONT PAGE OF THE FINAL EDITION BEFORE SIGNALING FOR THE GIANT HIGH-SPEED PRESSES TO START ROLLING...

THE PROOF LOOKS OKAY! LET 'ER ROLL, CY.'

Gotham Gazette
MYSTERY MAN GUIDES GANG!
WHO IS THE CRIMINAL BOSS OF NOTORIOUS ARTISANS?
POLICE

SUDDENLY...

THIS ENVELOPE WAS DELIVERED BY A TOUGH-LOOKING CHARACTER WHO SAID YOU SHOULD GET IT PERSONALLY, MR. THORPE.' HE REFUSED TO LEAVE HIS NAME.'

HOLD THE PRESSES, CY.' WE MAY HAVE TO REPLATE.' THIS COULD BE THE TIP I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ON THE IDENTITY OF THE BOSS OF THE *ARTISANS*.'

HERE'S A PICTURE AND -- *SAY!* IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON THE WISE GUY WHO PULLED THIS.'

HEARD YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO I AM SO SENT MY PICTURE.
The Citizens' Chief
?

GO AHEAD WITH THE RUN, CY! THE CRIMINAL BRAIN BEHIND THE *ARTISANS* IS STILL UNKNOWN! BUT I'LL LEARN HIS IDENTITY SOME DAY AND, WHEN I DO, I'LL EXPOSE HIM THE WAY I HAVE A DOZEN OTHER CROOKS IN THIS TOWN!

PRESS ROOM

THAT NIGHT, AS THE FREIGHTER "NUANA MARU" DOCKS ALONG THE CITY'S WATERFRONT...

NUANA MARU

GET ABOARD FAST WHILE THE SEAMEN ARE BUSY WITH LANDING OPERATIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIP.'

AND MOMENTS LATER, IN THE HOLD OF THE RECENT ARRIVAL FROM THE ORIENT...

PRICELESS JADE CARVINGS FROM CHINA! HA! AFTER TONIGHT'S HAUL, WE'LL BE IN CLOVER.'

WE'LL GRAB THIS STUFF AND BE BACK IN THE SPEED BOAT BEFORE THIS TUB IS MADE FAST TO THE DOCK.'

BUT EYES BLINDED BY GREED DO NOT SEE THE TWO CAPED FIGURES IN THE SHADOWS UNTIL...

IT'S *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*.!

YOU'RE 100% RIGHT.! GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS.!

AND A MOMENT LATER, ON THE FREIGHTER'S DECK...

D.D YOU GET IT, REYNOLDS? GREAT.! WE'LL RUN THIS SHOT OF *BATMAN* CAPTURING THESE WATERFRONT RATS ON PAGE ONE!

NICE WORK, *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*.! THOSE BABIES HAVE BEEN RAISING HAVOC ALONG THE WATER-FRONT FOR MONTHS.!

YOU DESERVE THE CREDIT, "FIVE STAR." YOUR SERIES ON THIS GANG REVEALED THEIR METHODS AND TONIGHT YOUR ALERT COVERAGE OF THE WATERFRONT RESULTED IN OUR GETTING THE TIP TO COME HERE.!

YOUR NEWSPAPER EXPOSES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN GOTHAM CITY HAVE RUN MOST OF THE BIG-TIME CROOKS OUT OF TOWN.!

YES... BUT THERE'S STILL ONE I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO EXPOSE... THE BOSS OF THE *ARTISANS*.! I HAVEN'T EVEN A CLUE TO HIS SECRET IDENTITY! BUT I'LL RIDE WITH THE STORY UNTIL I GET RESULTS.!

AND THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS POLICE MOVE IN ON A CRIMINAL HIDEOUT...

COME OUT OF THERE WITH YOUR HANDS OVER YOUR HEADS.! IF YOU MAKE A FALSE MOVE, YOU'LL BE WRITING YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT.!

ALL RIGHT, CHIEF.! YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET TOUGH! WE'RE COMIN.!

BUT AS THE POLICE CONCENTRATE ON THE CRINGING CREW WHICH FILES FROM THE FIRST FLOOR DOORWAY, A STEALTHY FIGURE SLIPS FROM A SECOND-STORY WINDOW TO THE BRANCH OF A TREE! AND FROM THERE-

HA! A PERFECT LINE ON THE CHIEF.! I'LL KNOCK HIM OFF LIKE A CLAY PIGEON.!

SUDDENLY, THERE IS A SHARP REPORT, A BULLET ZINGS THROUGH THE AIR, AND...

OH! MY ARM! I'VE BEEN PLUGGED!

LUCKY YOU ISSUED ME A LICENSE TO CARRY THIS PISTOL, CHIEF! THAT THUG WAS JUST ABOUT TO WRITE THE FINAL CHAPTER IN YOUR LIFE!

"FIVE STAR" THORPE! I'VE NEVER BEEN SO GLAD TO SEE A NEWSPAPERMAN BEFORE IN MY LIFE! THANKS A MILLION!

THAT'S OKAY, CHIEF! BUT YOU MUST ADMIT THAT BY SAVING YOUR LIFE, I DID MYSELF OUT OF A SENSATIONAL SCOOP! HA, HA!

SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO A POLICE LEAGUE DINNER, DICK! "FIVE STAR" THORPE IS GOING TO RECEIVE A MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF THE HELPLESS GIVEN THE POLICE IN FIGHTING CRIME!

HE'S BEEN NO SMALL HELP TO US IN OUR ROLES OF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*, EITHER, BRUCE!

THAT NIGHT, AT THE POLICE LEAGUE DINNER, A GROUP OF GOTHAM'S BEST KNOWN CITIZENS ARE ENGAGED IN A FRIENDLY ARGUMENT...

I WAS A NEWSPAPERMAN MYSELF ONCE AND I SAY A GOOD REPORTER IS *BORN* THAT WAY! THORPE, HERE, HAS DONE A GREAT JOB BECAUSE HE WAS BORN WITH A NOSE FOR NEWS!

YOU'RE WRONG, JIM LANG! BECOMING A GOOD REPORTER IS STRICTLY A MATTER OF TRAINING... ANYONE COULD DO WHAT I HAVE DONE WITH THE RIGHT HELP!

SAY WHAT YOU WILL, THORPE, BUT YOU CAN NEVER MAKE ME BELIEVE IT'S THAT EASY!

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT, LANG! AND I'LL BACK MY CONTENTION WITH MONEY... $10,000 TO CHARITY IF I'M WRONG. HERE'S THE DEAL! YOU ALL KNOW BRUCE WAYNE? WELL, I BET I CAN CHANGE HIM FROM A *SOCIALITE* INTO AN ACE CRIME REPORTER IN THREE MONTHS!

THE BET'S ON, THORPE THAT IS, IF BRUCE IS WILLING!

EVEN *BATMAN* MIGHT PICK UP SOME TRICKS FROM A SENSATIONAL CRIME-BUSTER LIKE "FIVE STAR" THORPE -- PARTICULARLY IF A WORTHY CHARITY WILL GET $10,000!

YOU'VE JUST GOTTEN YOURSELF A PUPIL, MR. THORPE!

GOOD! REPORT FOR WORK AT THE GAZETTE IN THE MORNING.

BATMAN

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

DICK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

GOOD MORNING, MR. WAYNE! (WHISPER) WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE BET AND THAT YOU'RE GOING TO START AS A **CUB CRIME REPORTER**, I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THE FUN SO I CAME DOWN EARLY AND LANDED A JOB AS A COPY BOY!

THAT YOU, BRUCE? WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET IN HERE FAST! I'M READY WITH YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT.

(WHISPER) GEE! MAYBE SOME KIDS HAVE BEEN PINCHING FRUIT FROM THE CORNER GROCERY AND THERE'S A CALL OUT FOR BATMAN ... I MEAN BRUCE WAYNE, REPORTER!

(WHISPER) I GUESS I ASKED FOR A RIBBING WHEN I AGREED TO TAKE THIS JOB, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN, DICK! (ALOUD) COMING, MR. THORPE!

EDITOR Mr. THORPE

AND DURING THE DAYS WHICH FOLLOW, THE "MAKING OF A CRIME REPORTER" ROUTINE PROCEEDS IN EARNEST...

"SMALL CHANGE" HOGAN AGAIN, SERGEANT! THIS TIME IT'S FOR RIFLING GUM MACHINES!

LIKE ALL CRIME REPORTERS, YOU'LL BEGIN BY COVERING A POLICE PRECINCT! EVERY DAY, DOZENS OF SMALL-TIME OFFENDERS ARE BROUGHT IN BY PATROLMEN AND BOOKED BY THE DESK SERGEANT!

HERE'S A CHANCE FOR YOU TO GET A STORY ON A NEW RACKET, BRUCE! THAT'S "SECOND STORY" FLEMING! HE KNOWS THE OWNER OF THAT HOUSE IS AWAY BECAUSE THE PAPERS AND MILK HAVEN'T BEEN TAKEN IN FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS! I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

SHORTLY AFTER...

ALL RIGHT, FLEMING! THAT TELEVISION REPAIRMAN'S OUTFIT DIDN'T FOOL THESE REPORTERS! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR TRYING TO STEAL THIS TV ANTENNA!

YOU SEE, BRUCE, EVEN IN SPOTTING PETTY CROOKS YOU'VE GOT TO BE ALERT AT ALL TIMES!

5

AND SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE **BAT CAVE'S** TROPHY ROOM, WHERE THE MEMENTOES OF FAMOUS CRIMES ARE ON DISPLAY...

WHAT'S THE NEW ADDITION TO THE TROPHY ROOM YOU WANT ME TO SEE BEFORE WE START OUR ROUNDS TONIGHT, **ROBIN?**

I HEARD ABOUT YOUR...ER ... **DARING** CAPTURE OF THE CHARACTER WHO'S BEEN STEALING FLOWERS FROM THE MUNICIPAL GARDENS, **BATMAN!** **NATURALLY**, I KNEW YOU'D WANT A SOUVENIR OF YOUR EXPLOITS! HA, HA!

TULIPS STOLEN BY MUNICIPAL GARDEN GANG

I SEE IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I LIVE DOWN THIS CUB REPORTER JOB, *ROBIN!* BUT I MAY TURN THE TABLES ON YOU AND DISCOVER AN IMPORTANT CRIME BEFORE I'M THROUGH.'

STOLEN BY GARDEN GANG

THE FOLLOWING DAY...

I GOT YOU A LICENSE TO CARRY THIS PISTOL, BRUCE.' YOU'LL NEED IT ON YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT.' YOU SEE, I'M CONVINCED YOU'RE READY FOR THE BIG-TIME.'

NEITHER *BATMAN* - NOR BRUCE WAYNE - CARRIES A GUN.' I'LL HAVE TO "FORGET" TO TAKE THIS WITH ME.'

MY GREATEST AMBITION HAS BEEN TO EXPOSE THE MAN BEHIND THE MOST NOTORIOUS GANG IN GOTHAM CITY... *THE ARTISANS.*' YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO LEARN HIS IDENTITY.' I'LL BE PLENTY TOUGH, BUT I'VE GOT CONFIDENCE IN YOU, BRUCE.'

THANKS CHIEF.' I'LL DO MY BEST.'

AND THAT NIGHT, IN THE *BAT-CAVE'S* CRIME LAB...

THORPE HAS WORKED SO HARD IN TRAINING BRUCE WAYNE TO BECOME AN ACE CRIME REPORTER THAT I'D HATE TO DISAPPOINT HIM, *ROBIN.*' I'M GOING TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE *ARTISAN* BOSS EVEN IF I HAVE TO DO IT AS *BATMAN.*'

I'VE GOT THE SLIDE FILM SHOTS OF ALL THE KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE GANG.'

ARTISANS

ONE REASON FOR THE GANG'S SUCCESS IS THAT IT'S MADE UP OF EXPERTS IN VARIOUS MECHANICAL FIELDS... MEN WHO ONCE WORKED LEGITIMATELY AT THEIR TRADES BUT WENT WRONG.'

THEN THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED *THE ARTISANS.*' AND WHENEVER SOME MECHANICAL SKILL IS REQUIRED FOR A JOB - THEY'VE GOT IT.'

BUT WHILE THE FILM IMAGES OF THESE UNIQUE CRIMINAL SPECIALISTS ARE BEING STUDIED BY THE TWO CRIME CRUSHERS, THE LIVING SUBJECTS ARE GATHERED IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY WHERE...

QUICK, YOU GUYS! THERE'S A MESSAGE ON THE MACHINE FROM THE *BOSS.*'

ATTENTION! INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEXT JOB

THE WYNN DIAMOND.' IT'S WORTH A MILLION.' THIS WILL BE OUR BIGGEST HAUL.'

BY USING THE ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER, THE BOSS CAN KEEP HIS IDENTITY SECRET EVEN FROM US! WE DON'T EVEN HEAR HIS VOICE.'

WYNN DIAMOND! REQUIRED PERSONNEL: WELDER, ELECTRI

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT THE GOTHAM CONVENTION HALL...

THE WYNN DIAMOND IS GOING TO BE ON DISPLAY DURING THE CONVENTION, BATMAN.' I'D LIKE YOU TO CHECK ON THE PRECAUTIONS WE'VE TAKEN; AS IT WILL REMAIN HERE TO AVOID THE RISKS IN TRANSPORTING IT TO AND FROM A VAULT DAILY.'

LL BE GLAD TO HELP I CAN, COMMISSIONER GORDON.'

Welcome!! DIAMOND DEALERS CONVENTION

IN ADDITION TO THE ELECTRIC EYE BEAMS WHICH WILL SET OFF AN ALARM IF ANYONE APPROACHES THE DISPLAY AFTER HOURS, THE ENTIRE FLOOR UNDER THE DISPLAY IS BEING MADE OF TWO-INCH ARMOR PLATE.'

I SEE! THEN IT CAN'T BE REACHED BY TUNNELING, COMMISSIONER.'

HMM! THE FLAME FROM THE WELDER'S TORCH INTERESTING.

LATE THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AFTER THE LAST OF THE OPENING-DAY VISITORS HAVE LEFT THE CONVENTION HALL...

BUT WHY ARE YOU SO SURE THERE'LL BE AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE WYNN DIAMOND, BATMAN?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, ROBIN! IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING! LOOK'

SWIFTLY, THE DARING DUO HURTLES TOWARD THE SPOT WHERE THE MILLION-DOLLAR JEWEL IS ENCASED AND...

THE DIAMOND! IT'S BEING LOWERED RIGHT THROUGH THE FLOOR!

THEY TUNNELED RIGHT UNDER THE CONVENTION HALL TO THIS POINT WHERE THE DIAMOND WAS ON DISPLAY. BUT HOW DID THEY CUT THROUGH THE HEAVY ARMOR PLATE?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, *ROBIN.!* QUICK! FOLLOW ME INTO THE TUNNEL AFTER THEM.!

SECONDS LATER, AT A POINT WHERE THE IMPROVISED TUNNEL JOINS A VIADUCT UNDER THE CITY STREET...

HERE COMES SOMETHING THE BOSS DIDN'T TELL US ABOUT - *BATMAN!* WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

TAKE IT EASY, ED. WHEN I CUT THIS COUPLING OFF A JET OF *LIVE STEAM* WILL POUR INTO THAT TUNNEL AND MAKE THOSE BABIES LOOK LIKE A PAIR OF LOBSTERS.!

ABRUPTLY, THERE IS AN EAR-SPLITTING ROAR, AND THE TINY PASSAGE IS FILLED WITH A WHIRLING MASS OF SCALDING VAPOR...

DIVE FOR THE FLOOR, ROBIN.! BURY YOUR FACE IN THE DAMP EARTH.!

WHOOOOSH

IS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*-- AND THEY'RE ALL RIGHT.!

AS CLOUDS OF STEAM CONTINUE TO CHARGE AT THEM FROM THE DIRECTION THE THIEVES HAVE TAKEN, THE CAPED LAWMEN ARE FORCED TO RETREAT...

"THANKS TO *BATMAN'S* QUICK THINKING, SINCE HEAT ALWAYS RISES, MOST OF THE STEAM PASSED OVER US, AND THE COOL MOISTURE IN THE NEWLY DUG EARTH PROTECTED OUR FACES.!"

LATER, ON THE WAY BACK TO THE *BAT-CAVE*...

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT THERE'D BE A TRY FOR THE WYNN DIAMOND, *BATMAN!*

I NOTICED YESTERDAY THAT THE TORCH OF THE WORKMAN WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WELDING THAT ARMOR PLATE BURNED WITH A *YELLOW FLAME.!* HEAT SUFFICIENT TO WELD TURNS THE FLAME *BLUE.!* I CHECKED LATER AND FOUND THAT HE'D ONLY DONE A *SOLDERING* JOB.!

A LITTLE HEAT FROM BELOW MELTED THE SOLDERED JOINT, SO THE CROOKS COULD GET TO THE DIAMOND. IF IT WERE WELDED, CUMBROUS AND NOISY EQUIPMENT WOULD BE NEEDED TO BREAK THROUGH.

A WELDER AND AN EXPERT ON THE CITY'S UNDERGROUND PASSAGES, SOUNDS LIKE A TYPICAL *ARTISAN JOB.*

NEXT MORNING, WHEN REPORTER BRUCE WAYNE COMES TO WORK...

THIS DIAMOND ROBBERY IS THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, BRUCE! I'VE GOT A SENSATIONAL IDEA!

WHAT IS IT, CHIEF?

Gotham Gazette

WYNN DIAMOND STOLEN!

POLICE SUSPECT ARTISAN

THIS PICTURE'S BEEN HEAVILY RETOUCHED IN OUR PHOTO LAB, BUT DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE MAN? HE'S PRACTICALLY A DOUBLE FOR *BRUCE WAYNE!* FROM NOW ON, *YOU'RE* VINTON WELLS! THE POLICE AGREED TO COOPERATE!

I DON'T GET IT, "FIVE STAR!"

SKILLED DIAMOND CUTTER RELEASED FROM PRISON

VINTON WELLS, CONVICTED 5 YEARS AGO OF ROBBERY, TODAY WAS RELEASED FROM STATE PRISON, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD FOR HIS SKILL AS A DIAMOND CUTTER, VINTON WELLS

THAT JOB LAST NIGHT WAS SURELY THE WORK OF THE *ARTISANS!* SO NOW THAT THEY HAVE THE WYNN DIAMOND, WHAT CAN THEY DO WITH IT? ANYONE TRYING TO SELL IT WILL BE ARRESTED!

I SEE! THEY'LL NEED A DIAMOND-CUTTER TO BREAK IT INTO SMALLER STONES. AN EXPERT WITH A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND IS SURE TO CATCH THEIR ATTENTION!

THE HUNCH PROVES CORRECT FOR, LESS THAN 24 HOURS LATER, BRUCE, HIS FACE SLIGHTLY ALTERED BY MAKE-UP, FINDS HIMSELF IN THE HIDE-OUT OF THE NOTORIOUS *ARTISANS*...

THEY SURE DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME CONTACTING ME AND BRINGING ME HERE!

PETE, OUR ELECTRONICS EXPERT, IS NOTIFYING THE BOSS THAT YOU AGREED TO OUR PROPOSITION, WELLS!

NOTIFYING THE BOSS? BUT WHERE IS HE? AND *WHO* IS HE?

NOT EVEN *WE* KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT! OUR MESSAGES ARE PICKED UP BY RADIO IN THE BOSS' SECRET HIDE-OUT AND HE ANSWERS US ON AN *ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER* LIKE THIS ONE!

A SPECIAL SCRAMBLING DEVICE PREVENTS THE COPS FROM PICKING UP OUR MESSAGES! WAIT! HERE'S THE BOSS' ANSWER NOW!

HMM! FOR A CROOK, THE BOSS HAS AN INTERESTING WAY OF WRITING!

WYNN JOB GOT BANNERS IN ALL PAPERS!

HAVE WELLS MEET ME ALONE FOR INSTRUCTION

ON HOW DIAMOND SHOULD BE CUT. TOMORROW PM

IT LOOKS AS IF YOU'LL BE THE FIRST OF THE *ARTISANS* TO MEET THE BOSS, WELLS.'

YEAH.' I CAN HARDLY WAIT.'

THE NEXT NIGHT, AT 10:30...

THIS IS THE FIRST CHANCE I'VE HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE CROOKS, THORPE.' I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE *ARTISAN* BOSS IN HALF AN HOUR.

I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR ME, BRUCE. GREAT WORK.' WE'LL WAIT BEFORE NOTIFYING THE POLICE TO MAKE SURE THE GAZETTE GETS THE EXCLUSIVE STORY.'

I'VE GOT ONE FAVOR TO ASK.' I'VE BEEN AFTER THIS STORY MYSELF FOR MONTHS.' ALL RIGHT IF I MUSCLE IN ON YOUR SCOOP?

CERTAINLY. "FIVE STAR." LET'S GO.'

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, IN THE SHADOW OF A GIANT GAS STORAGE TANK ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

HURRY UP, BRUCE. IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR THE RENDEZVOUS.'

I'M FOLLOWING YOU, THORPE.'

AJAX GAS

BETTER GET OUT THE PISTOL I GAVE YOU.' YOU MAY NEED IT WHEN THE BOSS FINDS YOU'RE NOT ALONE.'

I'M AFRAID I -- ER FORGOT IT, THORPE.'

TENSE SECONDS PASS AS THE TWO NEWSMEN WAIT TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE MYSTERIOUS CRIMINAL CHIEF. THEN, SUDDENLY--

LOOK OUT, BRUCE.' THE *ARTISAN'S* BOSS IS COMING AT YOU FROM BEHIND.'

THEN AN ASTONISHING THING HAPPENS! FOR AS THORPE FIRES AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE BEARING DOWN ON THE YOUNG REPORTER...

UGH! WHAT'S THE IDEA?

JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THE *BOSS OF THE ARTISANS* DOESN'T COMMIT ANY *MORE* CRIMES!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WAYNE? "FIVE STAR" INVITED ME TO MEET HIM HERE AT ELEVEN! HE SAID I'D SEE YOU GET A SENSATIONAL CRIME SCOOP WHICH WOULD PROVE HE'D MADE YOU AN ACE REPORTER AND I'D LOSE MY BET WITH HIM!

JIM LANG! SO THORPE PICKED *YOU* TO BE IDENTIFIED AS THE *BOSS!*

SINCE HE FIGURED I'D BELIEVE THAT ONLY THE *ARTISAN* CHIEF WOULD BE AT THIS SPOT AT ELEVEN, HE PLANNED TO SHOOT *YOU* AND MAKE IT LOOK AS IF HE WAS PROTECTING *ME!* THEN I'D WRITE A NEWS STORY REVEALING *YOU* AS THE MYSTERY CRIMINAL... A DEAD MAN COULDN'T TALK BACK!

SO A MISERABLE LITTLE CUB REPORTER LEARNED MY SECRET! I COULD HAVE RETIRED AFTER THIS WITH MY LOOT, AND YOUR STORY WOULD HAVE MEANT THAT I'D NEVER NEED WORRY ABOUT BEING FOUND OUT!

SUDDENLY, THE CRIME KING LUNGES FOR HIS GUN, AND...

BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE! I'LL KILL YOU AND FRAME IT SO IT APPEARS YOU KILLED EACH OTHER! THEN I'LL RUN A TOUCHING YARN ABOUT A CUB REPORTER WHO DIED TO GET THE STORY OF AN UNDERWORLD CZAR'S IDENTITY -- I'LL WRITE IT MYSELF! HA, HA!

ALL RIGHT! WHICH OF YOU WILL GET IT FIRST? LANG OR --

WE'RE SAVED! THERE'S *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

THIS I'VE GOT TO SEE!

HIS BRAVADO SHATTERED BY THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE AWESOME CAPED FIGURES, THORPE SCURRIES FOR FREEDOM...

WAIT HERE, LANG! I'VE GOT TO COVER THIS STORY!

SWIFT SECONDS LATER, IN THE SHADOWS BEHIND THE GIANT STORAGE TANK...

ROBIN.' IT *IS* YOU.' BUT THE OTHER FIGURE?..

WHEN YOU LEFT THE GAZETTE OFFICE WITH THORPE, I FOLLOWED.' I SAW WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE ROOFTOP AND FIGURED YOU'D WANTA CHANCE TO SWITCH TO *BATMAN.'* I HUNG YOUR CAPE OVER A TELEVISION ANTENNA!

A LIGHTNING-LIKE CHANGE AND THEN THE TRUE FIGURE OF THE DASHING CRIME CRUSHER HURTLES IN PURSUIT OF THE CRIMINAL PREY...

BATMAN! GREAT TO SEE YOU! I'M JUST GETTING A STORY ON...

SAVE IT, THORPE.! I JUST SAW BRUCE WAYNE AND HE GAVE ME THE DOPE ON "FIVE STAR" THORPE, BOSS OF THE *ARTISANS.'*

PRESENTLY...

BRUCE WAYNE HAD TO RUSH BACK TO THE GAZETTE OFFICE TO GET HIS SCOOP INTO THE FINAL EDITION.' IT SHOULD BE QUITE A YARN, EH, THORPE?

ANYWAY, YOU WIN THE BET, THORPE.' I'LL PAY $10,000 TO CHARITY.' BRUCE TURNED OUT TO BE AN EVEN *BETTER* REPORTER THAN YOU EXPECTED.' HA, HA.'

BAH.'

LATER, IN THE *BAT-CAVE'S* TROPHY ROOM...

JUST A LITTLE TROPHY OF MY NEWSPAPER EXPERIENCES, *ROBIN.'*

I'LL ADMIT IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING PRETTY IMPORTANT AFTER ALL, *BATMAN.'* BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED HOW YOU KNEW THORPE WAS THE *ARTISAN* BOSS.'

Gazette EXTRA

HOW I EXPOSED THE MYSTERY CRIMINAL! BY BRUCE WAYNE

I BECAME SUSPICIOUS BECAUSE THE BOSS USED A TYPICAL NEWSPAPERMAN'S WORD IN HIS MESSAGE ON THE ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER -- "BANNERS" FOR HEADLINES.' I WAS *CERTAIN* WHEN I LAGGED BEHIND ON THE WAY TO THE RENDEZVOUS AND THORPE WENT *DIRECTLY TO IT* -- YOU SEE, *I HADN'T TOLD HIM THE EXACT SPOT.'*

THE END

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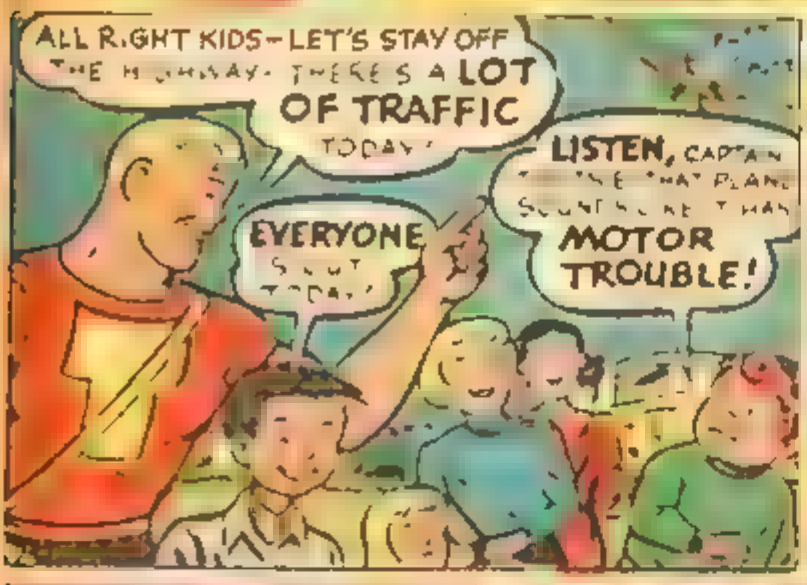
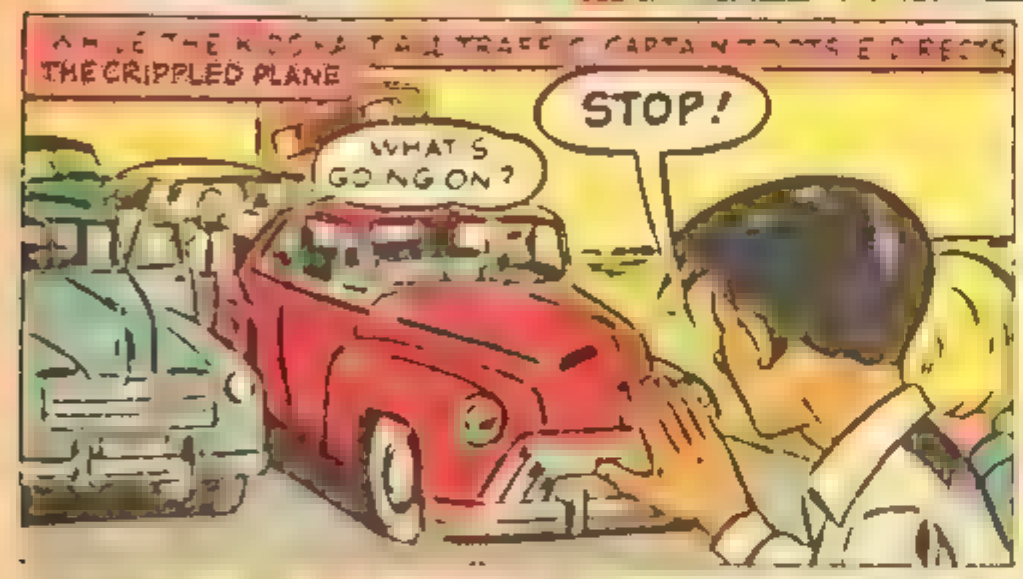
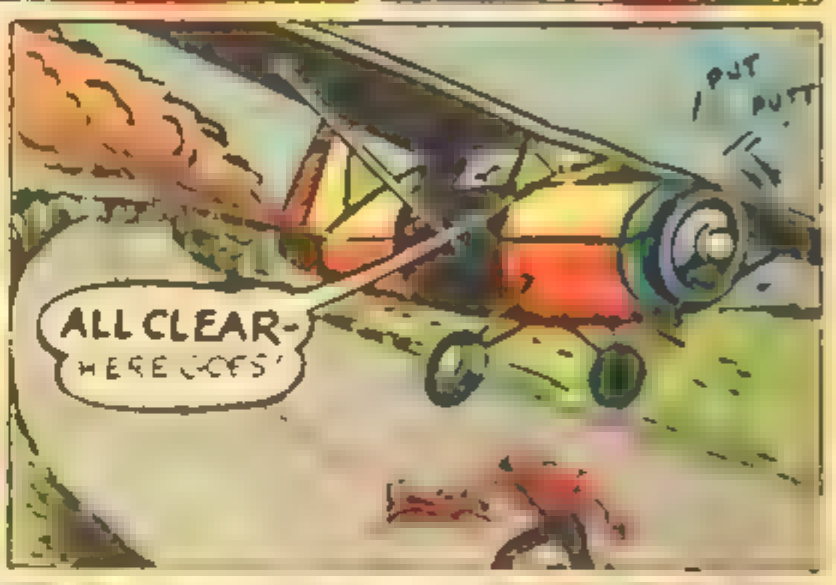
Captain Tootsie IN ENERGY LANDING

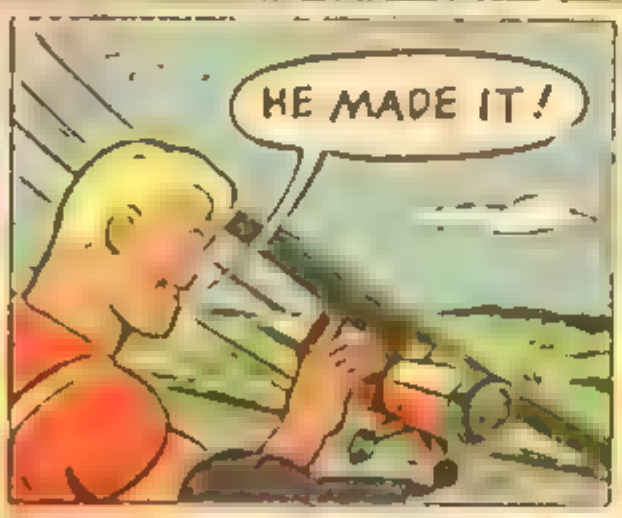
BY BILL HARPER

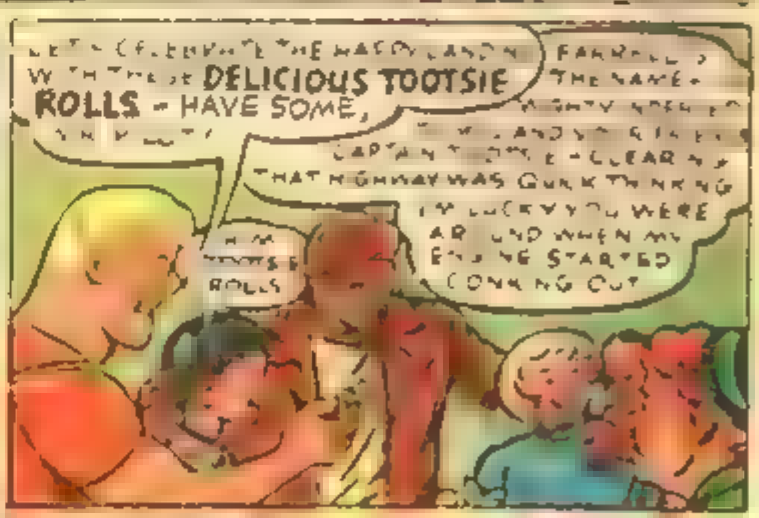

ALL RIGHT KIDS – LET'S STAY OFF THE HIGHWAY- THERE'S A LOT OF TRAFFIC TODAY!
EVERYONE SHUT TODAY!
LISTEN, CAPTAIN THAT PLANE SOUNDS LIKE THAN MOTOR TROUBLE!

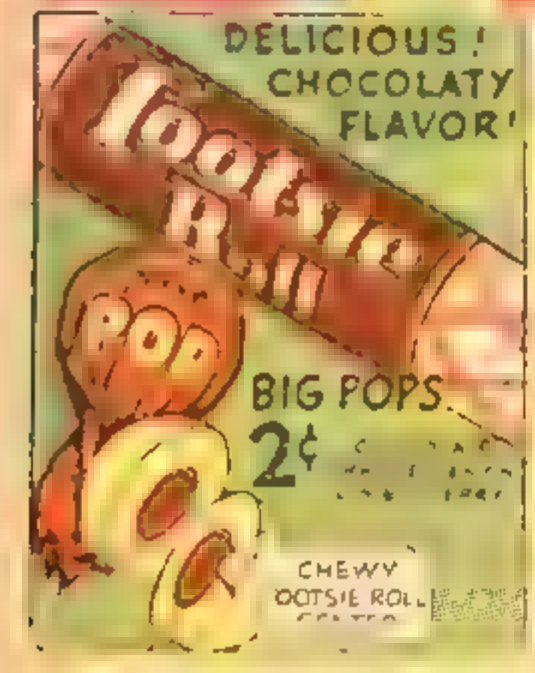
HERE'S A TOOTSIE ROLL FOR QUICK ENERGY FOR EVERY BODY! QUICK, ROLLO AND SUSAN – YOU STOP TRAFFIC AT THE NORTH END OF THE HIGHWAY- FATSO AND MARY-BELLE, YOU DO THE SAME ON THE OTHER END!

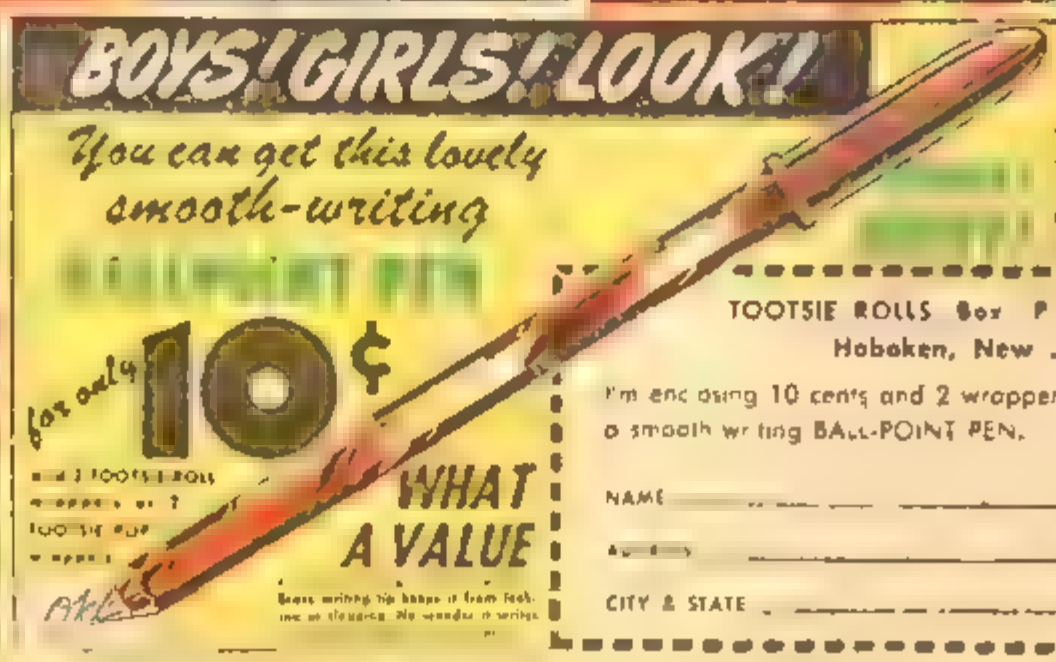







LET'S CELEBRATE THE HAPPY LANDING WITH THESE DELICIOUS TOOTSIE ROLLS – HAVE SOME,
FARMER'S THE NAME-
CAPTAIN TOOTSIE-CLEAR AS THAT HIGHWAY WAS QUICK THINKING I'M LUCKY YOU WERE AROUND WHEN MY ENGINE STARTED CONKING OUT
MM TOOTSIE ROLLS





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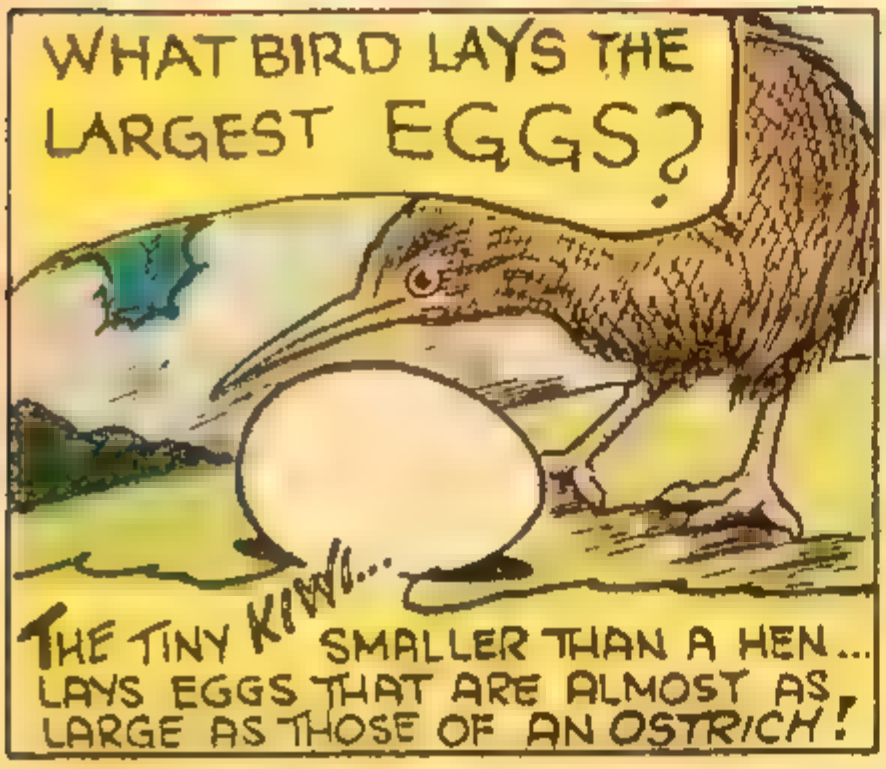
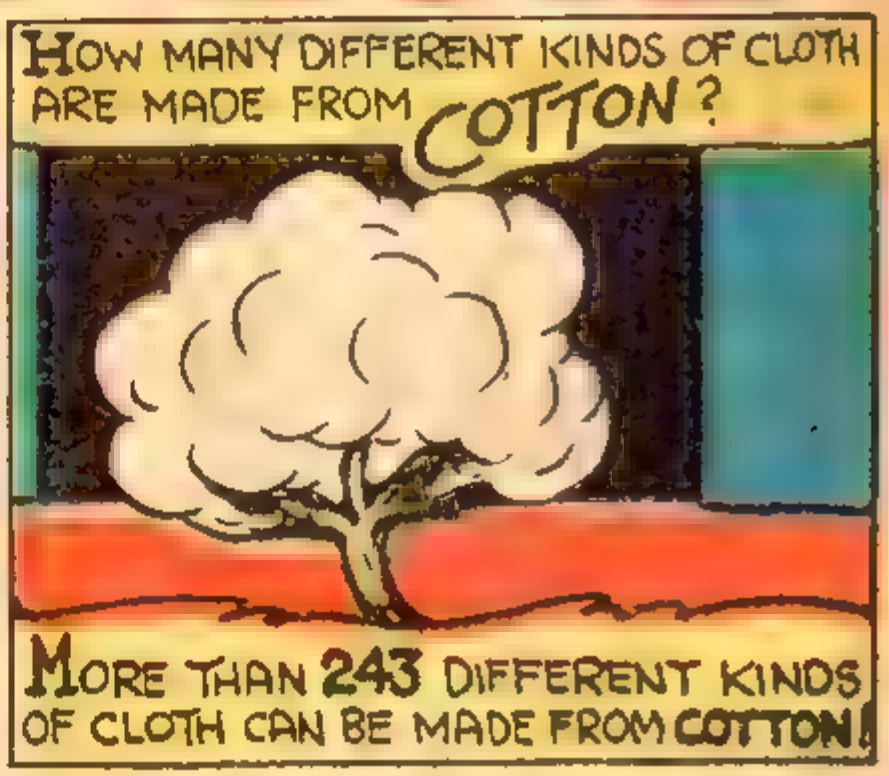
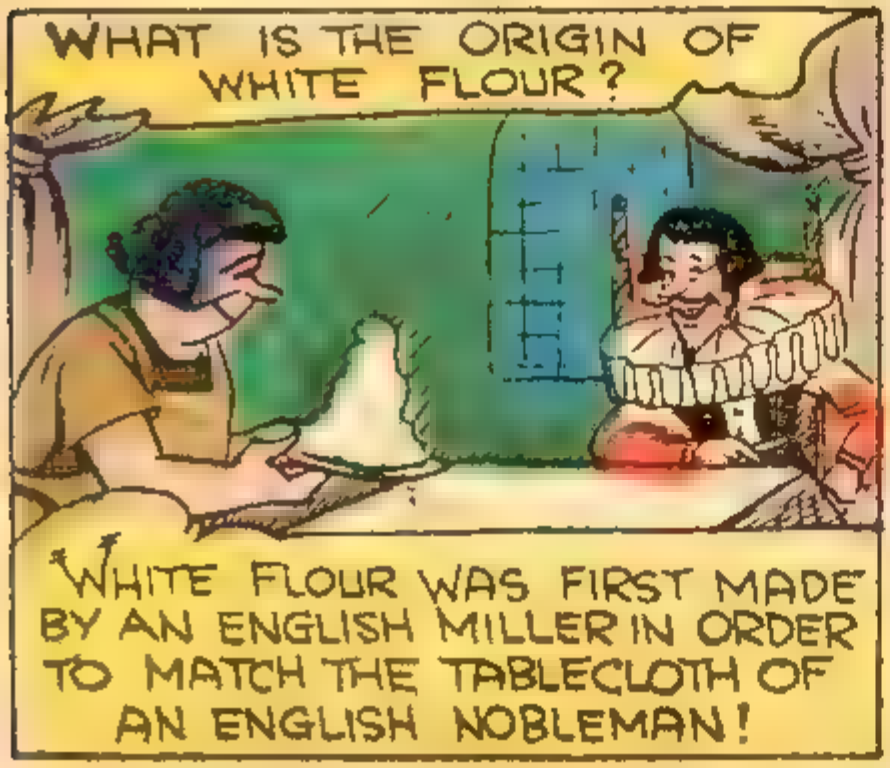
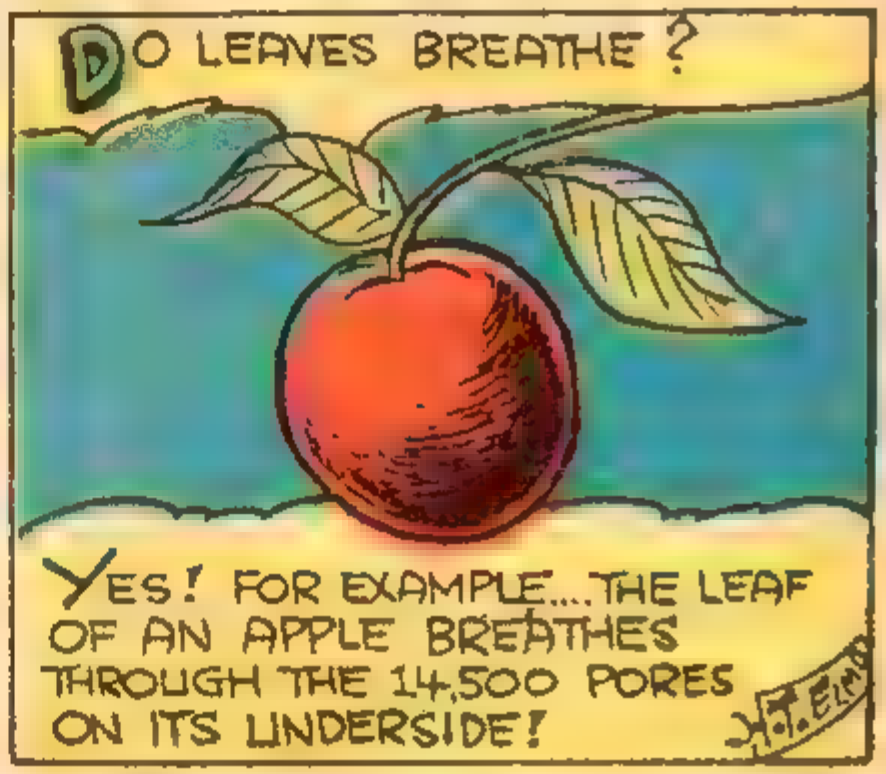
QUICK QUIZ






WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF WHITE FLOUR?
WHITE FLOUR WAS FIRST MADE BY AN ENGLISH MILLER IN ORDER TO MATCH THE TABLECLOTH OF AN ENGLISH NOBLEMAN!



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FOUR-FOOTED DETECTIVES

ONE day, a little boy wandered from his backyard. Later, when his mother called him, he had disappeared. A thorough search was made of the neighborhood, but no trace of the child could be found. However, someone had seen a boy walking toward the forest. A posse was organized and started searching the woods.

After many hours, the child was still not found, so the local police called for aid. A man arrived with two trained Bloodhounds. The dogs were given a piece of clothing belonging to the child, and in a short time found him by trailing the scent from the clothing.

The exact ancestry of the Bloodhound cannot be determined, but some dogs with exceptional abilities of smell can be traced back 2400 years. Xenophon, in his writings, discusses at some length how dogs were used to track down people. It is also recorded that in the third century A.D., a "scenthound" was used for the same purpose.

The Bloodhound, as we know him today, is probably descended from the dogs which William the Conqueror brought to England from France in 1066. We know that the part of France from which William came, had many dogs trained to trail for hunting purposes. St. Hubert, in France, prior to the conquest, was known to have bred and raised hound dogs which were used for trailing both men and animals. During the Middle Ages, many monasteries and manor lords are believed to have raised packs of dogs of the hound variety, which were bred for their acuteness of smell. These undoubtedly are the ancestors of the modern Bloodhound.

In our own history, much mention is made of Bloodhounds. During the Civil War, Bloodhounds were used by military forces for hunting deserters and guerrilla bands hidden in the hills. Also, it will be recalled that in Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," plantation owners trained dogs to find runaway slaves. These dogs were depicted as being bloodthirsty animals, trained not only to trail, but to kill their victims as well. Hence, the name Bloodhound.

However, this is not true of the Bloodhound. He is not the dangerous, vicious animal that many people believe him to be. He is by nature extremely gentle and affectionate, and he does not need a blood scent

to trail, but an odor of clothing, food, etc. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" did much to harm the reputation of the Bloodhound, but today most people realize that this breed is one of the finest, and that their usefulness to man is almost immeasurable.

The Bloodhound is usually trained for one of two purposes, that is, to be a trailer or a show dog. There is a great difference between the two. Trailing dogs do not usually have as fine points as the show variety. They are not as large, do not have as pointed a head, their jowls are not as big, and their ears not as long, and their coats are not as smooth and as well formed as the show dog. Bloodhounds average about 26 inches in height, and weigh about 90 pounds.

Trailers also can be divided into two classes: warm trailers, and cold trailers. This means that one dog is especially adept at following a fresh, or warm trail, and may not be as skillful at following an old or cold trail, while a cold trailer is particularly keen in tracing an old trail.

Bloodhounds are usually used in pairs when trailing. A Bloodhound can travel at 8 miles an hour, held on a leash, or accompanied by a trainer on horseback.

Training begins early. The most popular method is to give the pup a piece of clothing belonging to a person acting as the quarry. While the dog is watching him, the quarry walks a hundred yards away. When the quarry is out of sight, the pup is released, and following his natural instincts, usually follows the quarry to his hiding place. If the dog accomplishes this satisfactorily, he is petted and rewarded.

One trainer has found another method which has proved satisfactory. He puts a piece of liver in a jar, allows the dog to smell it, and then goes through the same procedure with the quarry hiding with the jar. This is to teach him to follow only one scent, and not be distracted by mixed odors he will come across in his trailing.

The pup's schooling begins when he is about 18 months old. After this initial phase, he is put to work with an older and more experienced dog. Since they usually work in pairs, Bloodhounds must be taught to work harmoniously together.

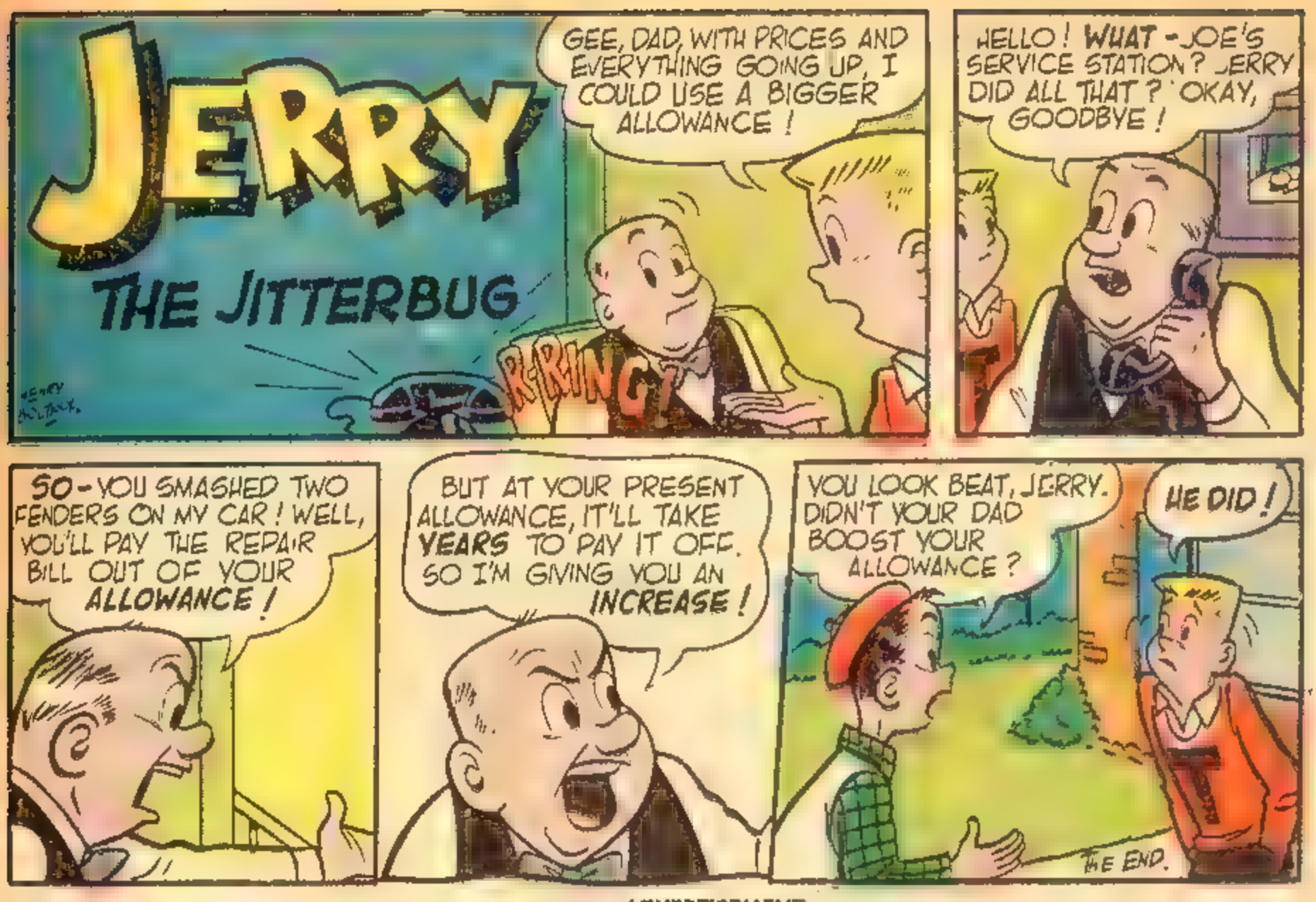
One of the best known Bloodhound detectives is V. G. Mullikin of Kentucky. This man and his famous dogs succeeded in locating 2,500 fugitives from justice.

Another well-known trainer is W. W. "Cy" Horton of the New York State Police. His famous dogs are trained at Troop K in Hawthorne, N. Y. and have been instrumental not only in police and detective work, but also in many mercy missions of finding lost persons. In the Sing Sing Prison break in 1941, Sgt. Horton used his Bloodhounds to trail the escaped convicts to the Hudson River. After crossing to the other side, the dogs again picked up the scent and trailed the culprits to a hill where they were eventually captured.

In Southern penitentiaries, Bloodhounds are used, too. If a convict escapes from a work gang, the dogs are brought to the area where he escaped from and start trailing. Bloodhounds are taught to tree their quarries, too, so that many an escaped criminal has been found hiding in a tree.

Bloodhounds do not usually bay while trailing, as is commonly thought. This would, of course, warn the criminal; they usually work quietly and only bay when the quarry has been treed or trapped so that the trainer can find them.

—B. Fairbanks


JERRY
THE JITTERBUG
HENRY SCARLATA
GEE, DAD, WITH PRICES AND EVERYTHING GOING UP, I COULD USE A BIGGER ALLOWANCE!
R-RING!
HELLO! WHAT - JOE'S SERVICE STATION? JERRY DID ALL THAT? OKAY, GOODBYE!
SO - YOU SMASHED TWO FENDERS ON MY CAR! WELL, YOU'LL PAY THE REPAIR BILL OUT OF YOUR ALLOWANCE!
BUT AT YOUR PRESENT ALLOWANCE, IT'LL TAKE YEARS TO PAY IT OFF. SO I'M GIVING YOU AN INCREASE!
YOU LOOK BEAT, JERRY. DIDN'T YOUR DAD BOOST YOUR ALLOWANCE?
HE DID!
THE END.

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Shorty

I WANTED TO SEE THAT MOVIE, BUT I'M SHORT OF MONEY!

WHAT'S THAT?

NOW

"WEST of the RIVER"

USHER WANTED

OKAY, THE JOB IS YOURS. COME INSIDE AND I'LL GIVE YOU A UNIFORM!

USHER WANTED

BOY, THIS IS SWELL!

EXIT

TWO HOURS LATER..

HERE'S YOUR UNIFORM, MISTER. THANKS!

BUT YOU JUST *STARTED* WORKING. DON'T YOU LIKE THE JOB?

I DIDN'T WANT *THE JOB* - I JUST WANTED TO *SEE THE MOVIE!*

THE END

BATMAN AND ROBIN

CATWOMAN FILE
NO. 5239-W4

ONCE AGAIN FROM THE DARK SHADOWS THERE CAME THE SINISTER FORM OF THAT FABULOUS FE-LINE ... THE CATWOMAN! DOES SHE ABOVE THROUGH THE SLEEPING CITY ON ALUTED FANS IN THE INTERESTS OF JUSTICE, OR IS SHE ON A MISSION OF PLUNDER? THIS IS THE BAFFLING QUESTION WHICH FACES BATMAN AND ROBIN AS THEY FOLLOW HER DOWN A PERILOUS PATH WHICH LEADS TO DANGER! AND GOTHAM CITY WONDERS IF IT WILL WITNESS ANOTHER CRIME BY

"CATWOMAN-EMPRESS of the UNDER-WORLD"

by BOB KANE

WHERE DOES HER FILE BELONG, BATMAN, WITH THE LAW OR THE UNDERWORLD?

ROGUES' GALLERY

POLICE AGENTS

I WISH I KNEW, ROBIN— I WISH I KNEW.

IN A TINY PET SHOP IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY, A SLIM GIRL FACES THE HULKING FIGURE OF A MAN...

SO *THIS* IS WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE GREAT *CATWOMAN!* I'VE BEEN SEARCHING THE TOWN FOR MONTHS FOR YOU!

AND NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND ME, YOU CAN GET OUT!

E.T. SHOP

AND TWO INTERESTED WITNESSES TO THIS SCENE ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON, WHO ARE SECRETLY *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*...

HERE'S THE LITTLE PET SHOP THE CATWOMAN'S BEEN RUNNING SINCE SHE GAVE UP CRIME, DICK!

AND LOOK WHO'S WITH HER, BRUCE... *"WHALE" MORTON,* THE UNDERWORLD CZAR WHO'S ESCAPED CONVICTION FOR YEARS FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE!

WOW! HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A VERY SATISFIED CUSTOMER, MISS... ER... ER...

SELINA KYLE! I OWN THIS SHOP! I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT CHARACTER, BUT HE CAME HERE TO REMIND ME OF ANOTHER LIFE... A LIFE I'D RATHER FORGET!

BUT LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THAT! PERHAPS YOU GENTLEMEN ARE INTERESTED IN BUYING A PET? THIS SHOP SPECIALIZES IN CATS... THERE ARE ALL KINDS... MANX, SIAMESE, PERSIAN...

WE'LL JUST LOOK AROUND, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, MISS KYLE.

THAT EVENING, IN THE SUMPTUOUS WAYNE MANSION ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY...

BRUCE, ISN'T IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THAT QUIET LITTLE PET SHOP PROPRIETRESS, SELINA KYLE, WAS ONCE THE NOTORIOUS *CATWOMAN!*

REMEMBER, DICK, SELINA WAS AN *AMNESIA VICTIM* DURING HER CATWOMAN CAREER! SHE REALLY WASN'T A CRIMINAL AT HEART. AND SPEAKING OF AMNESIA, LET'S NOT FORGET WE HAVE WORK TO DO... AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

A QUICK CHANGE AND THE WEALTHY PLAYBOY AND HIS YOUNG WARD ARE SOON GUIDING THE SLEEK *BATMOBILE* ALONG DARKENED CITY STREETS AS THE FAMED *DARING DUO,* WHEN...

BATMAN! LOOK OUT! THAT AMBULANCE IS GOING TO CRASH INTO US!

SCREEEECH!

EVEN ON AN EMERGENCY CALL, THE DRIVER OF THAT AMBULANCE SHOULD SIGNAL A WARNING WHEN APPROACHING AN INTERSECTION!

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT AMBULANCE, ***ROBIN!*** IT'S FROM GOTHAM GENERAL ON THE ***OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!*** THIS IS WAY OUT OF THAT HOSPITAL'S TERRITORY! LET'S CHECK!

BUT AS THE ***BATMOBILE*** HURTLES AFTER THE SUSPICIOUS AMBULANCE...

BAD LUCK, ***ROBIN!*** BY THE TIME THAT BOAT PASSES AND THE BRIDGE IS LOWERED THEY'LL BE OUT OF SIGHT! WE'D BETTER CHECK AT THE HOSPITAL!

TOOT-TOOT!

SWIFT MOMENTS LATER, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

BATMAN! ROBIN! I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE ***YOU!*** SOMEONE LET THE WHITE MICE OUT OF THEIR CAGES AND THEN RELEASED A MOB OF CATS IN THE LAB! DURING THE CONFUSION WHICH FOLLOWED, A VALUABLE SHIPMENT OF DRUGS WAS STOLEN AND THE THIEVES GOT AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE!

GOTHAM

LABORATORY

HOSPITAL ROUTINE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED! UNLESS ORDER IS RESTORED AT ONCE, THE PATIENTS MAY BE ENDANGERED! YOU MUST DO SOMETHING, ***BATMAN!***

THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN HANDLE THIS SITUATION! I'M PUTTING IN A CALL FOR ***SELINA KYLE!***

A BRIEF TIME AFTER...

SELINA! YOU'RE WONDERFUL! WHY, MOMENTS AGO THOSE CATS WERE LIKE WILD JUNGLE BEASTS!

THIS CAT CRIME IS LIKE THE KIND ***I*** USED TO ARRANGE WHEN I WAS THE ***CATWOMAN!*** I HOPE NOBODY SUSPECTS ***ME!***

PURRRR!

PURRRR!

AND ON THE WAY BACK TO THE ***BAT-CAVE...***

I THOUGHT WE'D SEEN THE END OF CRIMES INVOLVING ***CATS*** WHEN THE ***CAT-WOMAN*** JOINED THE SIDE OF THE LAW! ***BATMAN!*** YOU DON'T SUPPOSE THAT...?

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, ***ROBIN!*** THAT GIRL IS AS INNOCENT AS EITHER OF ***US!***

BUT DURING THE DAYS WHICH FOLLOW, THE CITY IS ROCKED BY A WEIRD SERIES OF CRIMES, EACH OF WHICH BEARS *THE MARK OF THE CAT...*

FURS
Debbie Ann
Fine Furs

SWELL IDEA RELEASING THESE JUNGLE CATS – WHILE THE PANIC S ON, WE GET AWAY WITH THE FURS! HA, HA!

ROAR!

WHEN THE GUARDS CHECK US ON THE WAY OUT, WE'LL BE CLEAN. BUT THE KITTY WILL GET OUT THROUGH THIS NARROW VENTILATOR SHAFT CARRYING THE MICROFILM COPIES OF THE LATEST POLICE EQUIPMENT INVENTIONS!

WHILE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, BEHIND LUXURIOUS SILKEN FOLDS, ANOTHER READER SCANS THE HEADLINES... "CRIMINAL MAY HAVE BEEN HURT BY JUNGLE CAT USED IN FUR STORE ROBBERY!"

"...SINCE BLOOD SPOTS WERE FOUND IN THE STORE, IT IS BELIEVED THE BIG CAT USED IN THE ROB BERY MAY HAVE CLAWED THE CULPRIT." HMMM! THIS PAPER ALSO SAYS THAT THE *CATWOMAN* IS SUSPECTED OF PER- PETRATING THESE CRIMES! *NO! NO!* IT ISN'T TRUE!

AND IN THE WAYNE HOME, NEWS OF THESE EVENTS IS FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST...

FOUR CAT-CRIMES IN THE PAST WEEK! DON'T YOU BELIEVE *NOW* THAT SELINA'S RE- TURNED TO HER LIFE OF CRIME AS *CATWOMAN*, BRUCE?

NO! I STILL HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HER, DICK! NO ONE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED GUILTY WITHOUT ABSOLUTE PROOF!

Gotham Daily News
CAT CRIMES STUN G
IS CATWOMAN ON
THE PROWL

I'M THROUGH WITH CRIME! I MUST GET RID OF EVERY REMINDER OF MY FORMER... WAIT! THIS *SCRATCH ON MY WRIST* THAT I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR! IT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE BY A *JUNGLE CAT!*

IS CATWOMAN ON THE PROWL? CRIMINAL MAY HAVE BEEN HURT BY JUNGLE CAT !!!!!!

AND THIS BLEACHED SPOT THAT I NOTICED THE OTHER DAY ON RAJAH'S FUR... I COULD HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY THE CHEMICALS FOUND IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC LAB, SCENE OF THE LAST CAT- CRIME! OH, NO! WHAT AM I SAYING?

Goth
LATEST CA
CASE INVOL
NEW POLICE
INVENTIONS!
SECRETS ON
MICROFILM
TAKEN FROM
LABORATORY
NOT REVEALED

I ONCE SUFFERED FROM *AMNESIA!* HAS IT COME BACK? HAVE I RETURNED TO A CRIMINAL LIFE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT? *NO!* IT CAN'T...IT *MUSTN'T* BE!

A MOMENT LATER, A SOFT CHIME ANNOUNCES A VISITOR WISHING ADMITTANCE! AND AS THE DOOR IS OPENED...

WHALE MORTON! I THOUGHT I GOT R.D OF YOJ FOR GOOD AT THE PET SHOP THE OTHER DAY! I WANT NOTH.NG TO DO W.TH CR.M.NALS.

HA, HA! VERY CLEVER, THIS INNOCENT ACT! BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME! I KNOW YOU'RE BEH.ND THE CAT CRIMES!

THE PLANS FOR THE LATEST [illegible] COULD BE MIGHTY USEFUL IN OVERCOMING GUARDS, EH *CATWOMAN?* WHEN YOU RETURNED TO CRIME, YOU STARTED IN THE RIGHT PL.CE.

IS IT TRUE? HAVE I [illegible] DET.CT.VE OR

I'M OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO BE [illegible] *IMPORTANT!* [illegible] FOR AVOIDING THE LAW, WE COULD RULE THE UNDER-WORLD TOGETHER!

"A CHANCE TO BE REALLY IMPORTANT!" HMM! PERHAPS HE'S RIGHT!

"WE'D BE VERITABLE MONARCHS... THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF CR.M.E

[illegible] FROM OUR [illegible]

[illegible] WE'RE PLANNING A WORLD CRUISE ON OUR YACHT!

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT! I NEED AN ORGANIZATION LIKE YOURS TO CARRY OUT MY PLANS! FROM NOW ON WE [illegible]

AND SO, AFTER ONE MEMBER OF THE NEWLY-FORMED CRIMINAL COMBINE DEPARTS...

HMM! LUCKY I KEPT MY *CATWOMAN* COSTUME! AND PERHAPS I WAS A BIT HASTY IN THROWING AWAY THESE CAT IDOLS!

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, THE *EVIL AXIS* STRIKES ITS FIRST BLOW...

SHALL WE GO, WHALE?

HA, HA! I SEE YOU'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH MY METHODS! *YOU* WILL BE ON THE SCENE AS PLANNED BUT *I*, LIKE NAPOLEON, REMAIN APART FROM THE BATTLE TO PLAN THE *GRAND STRATEGY!*

VERY WELL THEN! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

ATTENTION, ALL POINTS! IT IS NOW ZERO MINUS 4 MINUTES! BE READY WITH PLAN "A" AT ZERO HOUR!

LIKE A WELL-REHEARSED CAST IN SOME SINISTER DRAMA, THE UNDERWORLD ACTORS AWAIT THEIR CUES...

...THREE!..TWO...ONE... *ZERO!* THE *CATWOMAN'S* GOING INTO ACTION NOW!

AND AS THE SECOND HAND SWEEPS RELENTLESSLY OVER THE APPOINTED MOMENT, A FELINE FIGURE MOVES SWIFTLY FROM THE SHADOWS OF A HANGAR AT THE GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...

AH! THE TIMING IS PERFECT! THEY'RE JUST REMOVING THE LUGGAGE FROM THE LONDON PLANE!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, AS THE NEWLY ARRIVED PASSENGERS CHECK THROUGH THE CUSTOMS OFFICE...

MR. ADOLPH HAMMER? WE'RE FROM THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT! WE UNDERSTAND YOU'RE BRINGING AN ANIMAL INTO THE COUNTRY! YOU'LL HAVE TO BRING IT ALONG TO OUR HEADQUARTERS FOR INSPECTION!

AN MAL? I HAVE NO AN MAL! THERE'S SOME MISTAKE!

CUSTOMS

CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE FOLLOWING

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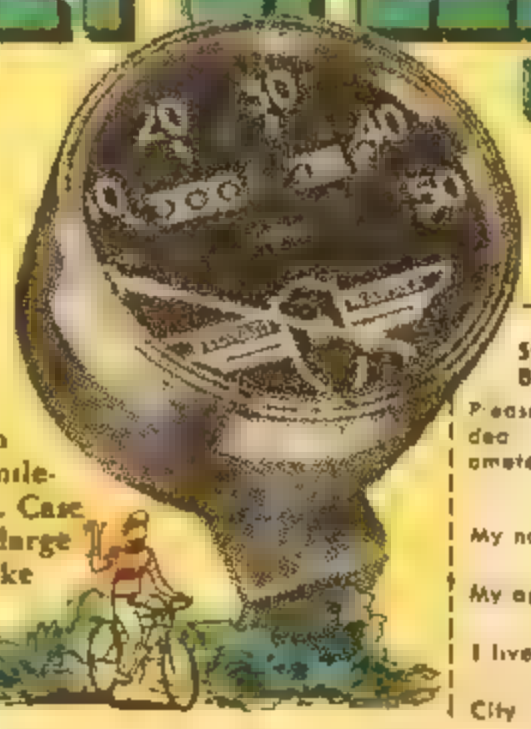

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My age is .....

I live at .....
(Number) (Street)

City ..... Zone ... State ...

GAINS FAME IN RACE WITH FLAME

ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" ADVENTURE STORY

LOOKS LIKE THE BROWNS AND THE SMITHS ARE AWAY

BOB WAS ON HIS LAST AFTERNOON DELIVERY WHEN...

I'M GLAD MR. WISE TOLD ME ABOUT "P-Fs" THEY SURE HELP MAKE THIS LONG HIKE EASIER EVERY DAY

JEEPERS! I MUST TURN IN THE ALARM!

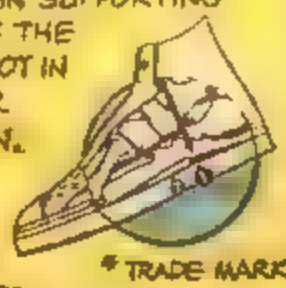
JAMMED!

BETTER HEAD FOR THE FIRE HOUSE!

JIM WISE TELLS WHY "P-F" CANVAS SHOES HELP YOU GO FULL SPEED LONGER!

1. THE ALL-IMPORTANT "P-F" RIGID WEDGE HELPS KEEP THE 3 MAIN SUPPORTING BONES OF THE NORMAL FOOT IN PROPER POSITION.

2. SPONGE RUBBER CUSHION



* TRADE MARK

"P-F"* MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION

IT'S THE BROWN'S HOUSE! 26 BROOK STREET!

LET'S GO!

SONNY, YOU'RE A HERO! YOU WEREN'T A MINUTE TOO SOON!

YOU SAVED OUR HOME!

GEE MY "P-F's" SURE HELPED ME TO GET THERE IN TIME!

THAT'S RIGHT! ..."P-F's" HELP YOU MAINTAIN YOUR SPEED LONGER!

GOOD ADVICE FROM JIM WISE:

GET YOUR "P-F" CANVAS SHOES TODAY AND SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW THEY HELP:

1. LESSEN FOOT STRAIN
2. YOU GO FULL SPEED LONGER
3. GUARD AGAINST FLAT FEET
4. PROMOTE GOOD POSTURE

INSIST ON "P-F" CANVAS SHOES MADE ONLY BY Hood Rubber Company and B.F.Goodrich

THEY SEEM TO BE RIGHT, MR. HAMMER! AT LEAST, THIS *CAT* CAME IN WITH THE REST OF YOUR LUGGAGE AND THE CASE HAS YOUR NAME ON IT! BETTER GO ALONG! IT WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT!

WHY...WHY, IT MUST BELONG TO SOME-ONE ELSE! BUT I'LL GO WITH YOU AND TRY TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT!

CUST

AND AS THE TWO AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AGENTS LEAD THE UNSUSPECTING TRAVELER INTO THE DARKNESS OUTSIDE THE TERMINAL...

ALL RIGHT, HAMMER! HAND OVER THE WEMBLY NECKLACE! WE KNOW YOU'RE CARRYING IT!

BUT I DON'T UNDER-STAND! I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING! I'VE ALREADY DECLARED THE NECKLACE TO THE CUSTOMS OFFICIAL FOR ONE MILLION DOLLARS!

MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND *THIS!* IT'S A GUN AND WE'RE *NOT* FROM THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT! NOW, IS EVERYTHING CLEAR?

ONLY TOO CLEAR! THAT CAT WAS PUT WITH MY THINGS IN ORDER TO LURE ME AWAY FROM THE TER-MINAL! I SEE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HAND OVER THE NECKLACE!

BUT AT THIS MOMENT, TWO CAPED FIGURES SOAR HIGH ABOVE ON THEIR NIGHTLY PATROL OF THE CITY...

LOOK AT THE PERCH THAT CAT'S FOUND IN FRONT OF THE AIR-PORT BEACON LIGHT, *ROBIN!* IT LOOKS LIKE A *CAT SIGNAL!*

I DON'T KNOW WHAT *IT* IS, *BATMAN!* BUT DOWN BEHIND THE HANGAR THERE'S A SIGNAL FOR US TO GO INTO *ACTION*...LOOKS LIKE A HOLDUP!

GOTHA

IN AN INSTANT, THE TWIN AVENGERS OF JUSTICE SWOOP DOWN FROM THE NIGHT SKY...

SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG WITH THE PLAN! IT'S *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN!*

BY JOVE! THIS IS JUST LIKE THE AMERICAN MOVIES!

I'LL TAKE THAT!

SOK

YOU SAY THIS WHOLE BUSINESS STARTED WHEN SOMEONE PLANTED A *CAT* WITH YOUR LUGGAGE, MR. HAMMER? HMM! THAT'S VERY INTERESTING!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, *BATMAN!* I'VE READ ABOUT YOU IN MY COUNTRY, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET YOU SO SOON AFTER ARRIVING IN AMERICA!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, IN A PARKED LIMOUSINE NEARBY...

FIVE AND ONE HALF MINUTES LATE! SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...I NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE FOUND NEAR THE SCENE OF ONE OF MY CRIMES!

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, IN THE CITY'S SPARKLING AMUSEMENT DISTRICT...

THAT ATTEMPTED ROBBERY AT THE AIRPORT HAD THE TRADEMARK OF A ***CAT CRIME.*** DO YOU STILL BELIEVE ***CATWOMAN*** IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS CRIME WAVE, ***BATMAN?***

EVERY CRIME HAS INVOLVED CATS, TRUE, ***ROBIN!*** BUT SELINA KYLE... ALIAS ***CAT-WOMAN...*** HAS NEVER BEEN SPOTTED AT THE SCENE!

ABRUPTLY, A SLEEK LIMOUSINE SWEEPS UP TO THE CURB AND FROM ITS PLUSH INTERIOR EMERGES...

CATWOMAN! AND SHE'S WITH ***WHALE MORTON!***

NOW WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HER,

FRANKLY, ***ROBIN,*** I DON'T KNOW! A FEW DAYS AGO I'D SWEAR THAT SELINA HAD FORESAKEN CRIME PERMANENTLY. BUT NOW...

A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE A GAUDY NIGHT CLUB...

AH! MR. MORTON! YOUR TABLE IS READY! RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR!

HA, HA! EVERYBODY IN THE JOINT IS LOOKING AT US! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY METHODS... NO HIDE-OUTS...I GO WHERE I PLEASE AND NOBODY CAN TOUCH ME!

YOU'RE SOOO RIGHT, WHALE!

THIS IS THE LIFE...BUT IT TAKES PLENTY OF DOUGH TO KEEP IT UP! SINCE THOSE BOOBS SLIPPED UP ON THAT AIRPORT JOB AND GOT CAUGHT BY ***BATMAN,*** WE'LL HAVE TO PLAN SOMETHING ELSE... SOON!

DON'T WORRY, WHALE! I'VE GOT SOMETHING WORKED OUT... SOMETHING ***REALLY BIG!***

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...

EXCELLENT, *CATWOMAN!* THE BOYS HAVE ALL BEEN BRIEFED ON THE PLAN YOU WORKED OUT!

THERE IT IS, WHALE! OUR TARGET FOR TONIGHT!

MOMENTS LATER, WITH THE GRACE OF A JUNGLE CAT, THE FELINE FELON SCALES THE SHEER MASS OF STONE AND CONCRETE LEADING TO THE ROOF OF THE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER...

AND NOW, *ART THROUGH THE AGES...* A PROGRAM PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ART! TONIGHT, WE...

THAT'S THE CUE... IT'S TIME TO PUT THE PLAN INTO OPERATION! AS USUAL, I'LL DIRECT FROM THE CAR AND THIS TIME I'LL BE ABLE TO *WATCH...* BY TELEVISION!

WHILE INSIDE, IN ONE OF THE STUDIOS...

AND FROM THIS GIANT PAINTING OF *DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT,* LET'S MOVE OVER FOR A LOOK AT THIS EXQUISITE *EGYPTIAN CAT IDOL...* IT WAS DEDICATED TO THE MOON GODDESS, ISIS, AND IS ENCRUSTED WITH *PRECIOUS STONES* WORTH A FORTUNE!

ABRUPTLY, AN UNSCHEDULED PERFORMER MAKES HER ENTRANCE...

JUST LOOKING, FOR ANOTHER *CAT* FOR MY COLLECTION... ONE COVERED WITH *JEWELS* WILL DO!

WHILE ON A SIDE STREET NEAR THE STUDIO...

HA, HA! THIS IS GREAT! THE *CATWOMAN'S* THE BEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN ON TELEVISION!

AND ON ANOTHER NEARBY STREET, A DIFFERENT KIND OF VEHICLE CRUISES THROUGH THE NIGHT--THE ***BATMOBILE***...

LOOK, ***BATMAN!*** A ***CAT SIGNAL*** ATOP THE TELEVISION STATION! REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME WE SAW IT?

IT MAY BE JUST COINCIDENCE, BUT WE'D BETTER CHECK!

AND SWIFT SECONDS LATER...

WE CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE, ***ROBIN!*** THIS SKYLIGHT'S BEEN BROKEN INTO! YOU KNOW, ***CATWOMAN*** MAY ***STILL*** BE WORKING FOR THE LAW AS AN ***UNDERCOVER AGENT*** AND USING HER CATS TO CALL US WHEN CROOKS STRIKE!

OR SHE MAY BE USING THE SIGNAL TO LURE US INTO A ***TRAP***... DON'T FORGET THAT, ***BATMAN!***

LEAPING THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE SKYLIGHT, THE ***DYNAMIC DUO*** LANDS IN THE ELECTRONIC, TUBE-PACKED MASTER CONTROL ROOM OF THE TELEVISION STUDIO...

WE LANDED IN THE RIGHT PLACE, ***ROBIN!*** WE CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EVERY PART OF THE BUILDING IN SECONDS!

ON THIS MASTER CONTROL BOARD, WE CAN CUT IN ON EVERY STUDIO! SO FAR I'VE ONLY GOTTEN REHEARSALS!

ROBIN! LOOK! STUDIO 4 IS DARK, BUT SEE THAT FIGURE SLINKING ALONG THE ***CATWALK?*** IT'S THE ***CATWOMAN!*** LET'S GO!

STUDIO 3

STUD

AT BREAKNECK SPEED, THE ***TWIN TORNADOES*** RACE TO THE DARKENED STUDIO, WHERE...

BATMAN, SHE MUST BE UP THERE IN THAT MASS OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT!

IT'S SO DARK... I CAN HARDLY SEE! LOOKS LIKE A BLACKSMITH SHOP SET, BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN MAKE OUT!

BUT AS THE FAMED FIGHTER SPEAKS, THE CAPED LAWMEN ARE SUDDENLY CAUGHT IN A SEARING BEAM OF INESCAPABLE BRILLIANCE...

THAT LIGHT FROM THE CATWALK! IT'S BLINDING!

THEN, ABRUPTLY, THERE IS A BRIEF WARNING HISS AND THE TENTACLES OF A ***CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS*** REACH OUT FROM THE BLACKNESS...

I THOUGHT YOU TWO MIGHT BE DROPPING IN!

CRACK!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER...

THE SUCTION FROM THAT GIANT WIND MACHINE IS SLOWLY DRAWING THE CAMERA DOLLY TOWARD THE BLADES!

I'M GLAD YOU SIGNALED ME FROM THE ROOF AFTER YOU CAPTURED THESE TWO, ***CATWOMAN!*** THIS IS THE ONLY SHOW THAT WOULD MAKE ME BREAK MY LIFELONG RULE AND APPEAR AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME!

WHIR-R-R

THIS STUDIO IS ABSOLUTELY SOUND-PROOF! NO ONE CAN HEAR THEM IF THEY CALL AND IN A MOMENT WE'LL BE RID OF ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN*** FOR GOOD! HOW'S THAT, WHALE?

BRILLIANT! BRILLIANT!

WHIR-R-R

WE'LL REACH THE BLADES IN ANOTHER ***FEW SECONDS, BATMAN!*** I GUESS THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT THE ***CAT-WOMAN NOW,*** IS THERE?

AND I WAS ALMOST CERTAIN SHE'D REFORMED!

AND YET THAT LIGHT ON TOP OF THE CAMERA, IT'S GLOWING! COULD IT BE THAT..? BUT THAT'S WISHFUL THINKING!

WHIRRR

WRENCHING ONE HAND FREE, ***BATMAN*** GRABS A HORSESHOE FROM THE BLACKSMITH SHOP SET...

LUCKY OUR MURDER IS BEING STAGED ON THIS BLACKSMITH SHOP SET! I USED TO BE A CHAMPION HORSE-SHOE PITCHER! WONDER HOW I CAN DO FROM THIS POSITION?

CLUNK

WITH A QUICK TWIST OF THE WRIST, THE BOUND ***BATMAN*** TOSSES THE HEAVY HORSESHOE TOWARD THE STUDIO'S MASTER SWITCH AND...

THE LIGHTS! WHAT HAPPENED?

(WHISPER) QUICK, RUB THE ROPES THAT BIND YOU ALONG THE ROUGH METAL EDGE OF THE DOLLY BEFORE THEY FIND THE TROUBLE AND TURN ON THE LIGHTS!

BATMAN

WORKING FURIOUSLY, THE *DYNAMIC DUO* REGAINS FREEDOM AND THEN...

UP GO THE LIGHTS AND... *SURPRISE!*

THIS SWITCH! HMM! IT WASN'T WISHFUL THINKING AFTER ALL!

I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT THE HELP YOU SUMMONED ARRIVED, EVEN IF WE COULDN'T TAKE A CHANCE AND WAIT FOR THEM BEFORE FREEING OURSELVES, *CATWOMAN*... OR SHOULD I SAY *SELINA KYLE?*

SAY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY ARE WE SUDDENLY SO CHUMMY WITH SOMEONE WHO JUST TRIED TO KILL US?

SHE NEVER INTENDED TO KILL US, *ROBIN!* I SUSPECTED AS MUCH WHEN I NOTICED THAT THIS LITTLE *SIGNAL LIGHT* WAS *GLOWING*... THAT MEANT THE CAMERA WAS *ON* AND *EVERYTHING IN THIS STUDIO WAS CARRIED TO THE OUTSIDE.* SINCE IT WASN'T ON WHEN WE ENTERED, CAT... ER... SELINA MUST HAVE DONE IT!

AND WHEN I TURNED ON THE SWITCH, I WAS *CERTAIN* THAT SELINA KYLE WAS ON OUR SIDE! SHE'D RIGGED IT WITH A VERY THIN WIRE THAT WOULD BREAK IN A SHORT TIME FROM THE HEAT CAUSED BY THE CURRENT... IT SHOULD GIVE ANY SECOND NOW!

I KNEW WHALE'S REPUTATION FOR AVOIDING THE LAW... THE PROMISE OF SEEING THE "DEATH" OF *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET HIM TO APPEAR ON THE SCENE OF A CRIME!

AND SO, BACK AT THE PET SHOP...

...AND I REALIZED WHALE WAS FRAMING ME WHEN HE SAID GUN PLANS WERE TAKEN FROM THE POLICE LAB! THE NEWSPAPERS DIDN'T MENTION WHAT WAS TAKEN SO HE MUST HAVE DONE THE JOB HIMSELF! BUT THE BLEACHED CAT AND THE SCRATCH ON MY HAND... THEY STILL WORRY ME!

THEY NEEDN'T, SELINA! WHALE COULD HAVE PUT BLEACH ON THE CAT WHEN HE VISITED YOU HERE BEFORE THE CRIMES! HE PUT THE SCRATCH ON YOUR HAND ON THAT VISIT, TOO... A MILD ANAESTHETIC ON A PIN WILL PREVENT THE VICTIM FROM FEELING A SCRATCH. HE KNEW YOU'D BELIEVE YOURSELF GUILTY AND, FOR A BIT, I'LL ADMIT I DID, TOO! I'M GLAD WE WERE *BOTH* WRONG

The End

2

NOW IS THE TIME FOR EVERY *AMERICAN* TO INSURE HIS FUTURE! LET'S *ALL BUY U.S. BONDS!!*

MORE *BATMAN AND ROBIN* IN WORLD'S FINEST COMICS AND DETECTIVE COMICS

the "POPSICLE" TWINS AT GREAT SALT LAKE
TESS AND TIM DIVE FOR PEARLS
GOSH, THIS GREAT SALT LAKE REALLY BURNS YOUR EYES
LOOK... THAT LADY LOST HER NECKLACE IN THE WATER
I CAN GET DOWN TO THE BOTTOM... BUT THE SALT WATER BLINDS ME
I'LL GIVE $50 TO ANY-ONE WHO FINDS IT!
TRY YOUR "POPSICLE" WATER GOGGLES, TIM!
SWELL, THEY'LL KEEP THE SALT WATER OUT OF MY EYES!
I FOUND THEM!
HERE'S YOUR REWARD!
NOW YOU CAN BUY A SAVINGS BOND, TIM!
CONGRATULA-TIONS TIM, THAT WAS AN EXCITING DIVE!
ALMOST AS EXCITING AS THE GIFTS WAITING FOR KIDS IN YOUR GIANT "POPSICLE" GIFT LIST!
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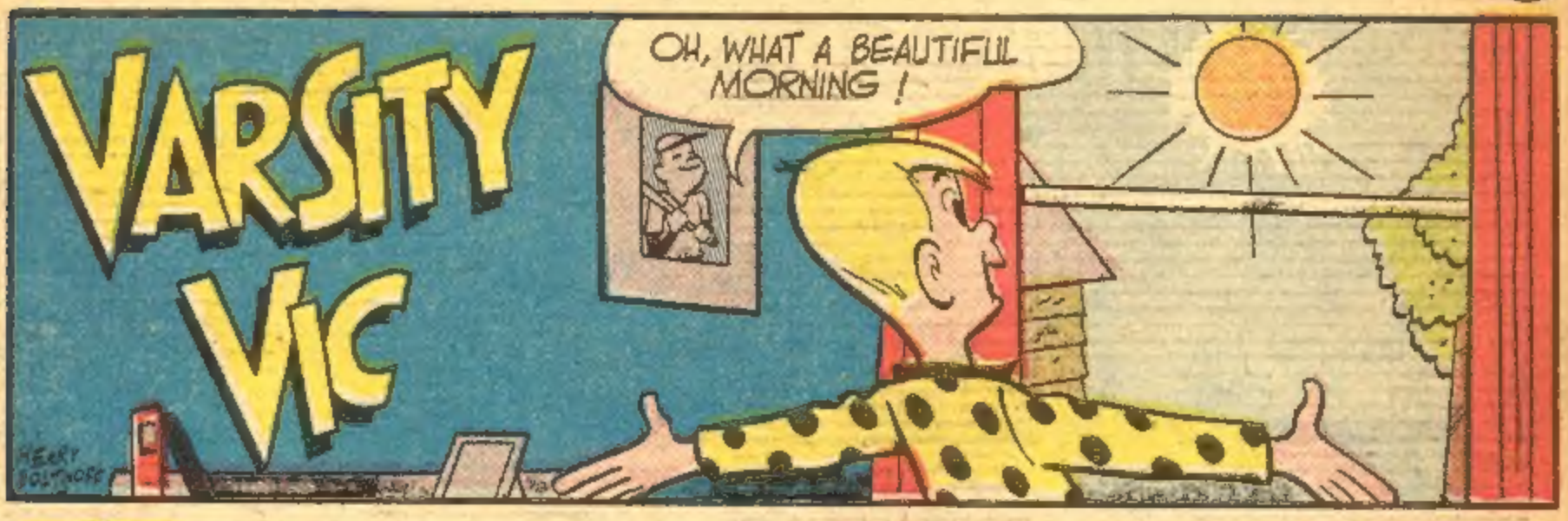

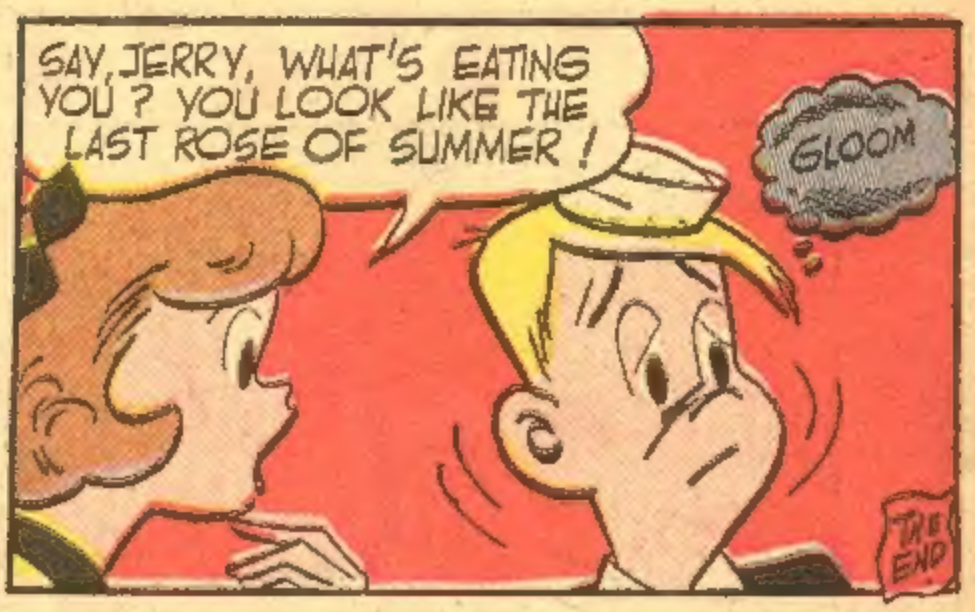

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SIGRID HAS INVITED US TO HER HOUSE FOR SUPPER. HER MOTHER'S MAKING SOMETHING CALLED **KOTTBULLER**... I'M NOT GOING!

NEITHER AM I! I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THOSE FOREIGN-SOUNDING THINGS!

HMM... SIGRID IS THAT LITTLE SCANDINAVIAN GIRL WHO'S NEW HERE. NOBODY HAS PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO HER, BECAUSE SHE'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT. MAYBE **SUPERBOY** CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!

A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME IN A NEARBY HALLWAY, AND...

HIYA! GOING OVER TO SIGRID'S LATER? I'M GUEST OF HONOR, YOU KNOW!

YOU **ARE**! WHY--ER--SURE, WE'LL BE THERE!

LATER, AT SIGRID'S HOUSE, WHERE **SUPERBOY** HAS BEEN GRACIOUSLY WELCOMED...

SAY! THIS KOTTBULLER IS DELICIOUS! LIKE LITTLE HAMBURGERS, WITH WONDERFUL STUFF IN IT!

HMMMMMM...

BET YOU'RE GLAD YOU DIDN'T PASS IT UP!

YOU NEVER CAN TELL WHAT YOU'RE MISSING IF YOU DON'T TRY! IF YOU WANT TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY, LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE IN FOOD, LANGUAGES, CUSTOMS AND DRESS...

AND **RESPECT** THESE DIFFERENCES... BECAUSE NO SINGLE LAND, RACE OR NATIONALITY CAN CLAIM THIS COUNTRY AS ITS OWN. AMERICA IS A BLEND OF CULTURES FROM MANY LANDS! NEVER FORGET THAT.

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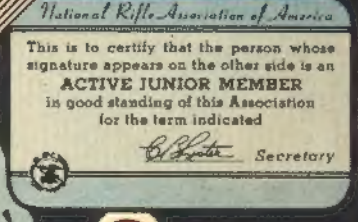
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